

Nº 3,184

FRIDAY 3 JANUARY 1997

WEATHER: Cold

(IR45p) 40p



COMMENT Suzanne Moore: my resolutions for the rest of you PAI







Juan Peron: did he leave a

After 'Evita', Peron to face dirt-diggers

Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent

Madonna's latest starring role means that the international spotlight is once more focused on Evita Peron. Now Evita's husband, Argentina's populist leader General Juan Peron, is also being disinterred.

His remains are to be exhumed, probably this week, to test the claim of Martha Holgado, a 62-year-old Argentinian with a remarkable resemblance to the late general who insists he was her father. Though court in Buenos Aires has ruled that Ms Holgado might have a point and that a DNA test is in order.

"This is war. They're trying to keep me from my birthright," Ms Holgado said at court hearing after the general's last wife, Isabel Peron, tried in vain to block the exhumation. "But the DNA tests will show whether I am telling the

She says her mother and Peron were lovers in 1932, more than a decade before he became enamoured with Eva

mother, who died only recently, pledged her to secreey, of course, Nothing to do with the Madonna film.

If Ms Holgado is proved right, her lawyer says only that she will claim her "birthright". For that, read hundreds of millions of Swiss francs said to be lying unclaimed in Zurich bank vaults, including expressions of gratitude from Nazis whom Peron allowed into Argentina after the war.

It is not the first time that Peron bodies have been disturbed. After General

many Argentinians believe his third Duarte, alias Evita. Why did it take her wife's claim that he was impotent, a so long to come forward? Because her regime removed his coffin from the Even Evita's body has been a move presidential burial site and reburied it

another Buenos Aires cemetery. In 1987, a gang of "body-nappers" cut through the bullet-proof glass of his crypt and used an electric chainsaw to remove his hands. Some said it was politics, others said it was an attempt to use his fingerprints to gain access to that

secret numbered Swiss account. A gang calling itself "Hermes and the Thirteen" asked for \$8m (£5m) to return the hands. According to police

Even Evita's body has been a movable object. After Juan Peron had her embalmed in 1952, soldiers smuggled her beautified corpse to Europe. There. somebody cut off her ear as a keepsake.

Somebody else took a tinger.

It is claimed that admirers made copies of the embalmed body, apparently by using dead lookalikes. Eventually, Juan Peron brought her back to Buenos Aires, where she lies to this day in the Recoleta cemetery. Or at least some blonde with a pearl necklace, records, no money changed hands. missing an ear and a finger, does,



Jostling Tories shift on · Europe

Chief Political Correspondent

The barely-veiled race to succeed John Major as Tory leader if he loses the election was thrown wide open yesterday net ranks to call for a renegotiation of Britain's relationship

with Europe. By making his call, Mr Dorrell, a former "wet" on the left of the party, put down a clear marker for the leadership contest, which would occur in the autumn if the Tories lose. But he has also made it likelier that 'nev will fight that election on

an anti-Brussels manifesto. "The Cabinet has given up on the general election and are now fighting the leadership election," said Menzies Campbell,



Stephen Dorrell: broke Cabinet ranks on Europe

spokesman. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, derided it as a "crude effort to outflank Michael Howard in the fight for the Tory leadership". But some Tories thought the

Prime Minister himself was involved. The Health Secretary's intervention was seen by John Redwood, another contender for the leadership, as an attempt by Mr Major to corner Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, into accepting a change of policy.

The Chancellor, who was savaged at a Cabinet meeting before Christmas, is now looking more isolated than ever in his rejection of a more Eurosceptic stance at the general

Whitehall sources yesterday said around half the Cabinet

rest are waiting for a lead from Mr Major, Mr Dorrell discussed his strategy with Mr Major and had the Prime Minister's tacit backing.

"All these things are cleared Health Secretary, broke Cabi- are made. The key thing [Mr Dorrell is saying] is a shift in our position would help us to win the election. I think that is right," said Mr Redwood. Mr Clarke has been resist-

ed pressure for a change of policy on the "wait and see" approach to the single European currency. A commitment to use the inter-Governmental Conference to return the EU to a free-trade common market would reunite the Euro-sceptic Tory MPs.

Mr Major, in his New Year address, made it clear he intends to use the IGC as a general election campaign issue, and there will be pressure on Mr Clarke to allow it to be drafted into the Tory election manifesto. It could mean bringing together its proposals to the IGC for the piecereal renegotiation of EU institutions in a comprehensive demand for change. That would imply ruling out a single cur-

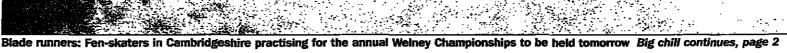
"I am putting a marker down to ensure that the Conservatives win this general election because the general election, as much as anything else, is about the kind of attitude that the British Government takes in the second half of this year in discussions within Europe about the future shape of Europe," Mr

Dorrell said. Mr Dorrell - once a staunch pro-European - refused to be drawn on whether renegotiation would lead to Britain eventually pulling out of Europe, if it failed to win acceptance from the other member states.

Not surprisingly, it alarmed pro-European MPs. Sir Ray Whitney, knighted in the New Year's Honours list, said it was "dangerously near withdrawal". Quentin Davies said: "There's no question of turning the European Union back into some kind of free trade area and any idea of that kind is quite unrealistic and indeed would be id-

Guide to leadership race,





getting criminals successfully

prosecuted is what the police

He blamed the rise in crime

with it. He admitted that an

increase in salary, which he declined to disclose, was also an

Mr Hill's public comments

will infuriate the modernisers in

the police service who believe

that his views are outdated.

However, they do appear to

enjoy the support of a signifi-

president of the Superinten-

dents Association, said yester-

day: "It's important to get a

balance - perhaps we should go

back to being more of a law en-

forcer - we are not the proba-

tion service or the social service,

tant that we police with the con-

But he added: "It is impor-

we are the police force."

sent of the public."

Chief Supt Brian Mackenzie,

cant number of officers.

should be doing."

incentive.

Detective attacks the spin-policemen

Crime Correspondent

One of the country's most senior detectives, who is quitting his job to join the private sector, yesterday made a blistering attack on modern policing, accusing it of being more interested in public relations and making people "feel good"

than in catching criminals.

Detective Chief Inspector Charles Hill, 49, the former head of Scotland Yard's Arts and Antiques squad, told The Independent: "Conviction policing is taking a back seat to pub-

lic image policing.

"Catching people and providing evidence for prosecutions is how to deal with crime rather than telling people what a wonderful job we are doing. His comment marked a rare

public outburst by a senior Mr Hill, who joined the Metropolitan Police 20 years ago.

including the recovery of Munch's Scream, stolen from the National Gallery in Oslo. Now the head of the CID in Belgravia, Mr Hill joins Nordstern, a specialist art and au-

tiques insurance company on Monday as a "risk manager" responsible for intelligence. He said part of the reason he was leaving the police was

because "the private sector has more to offer now as far as crime detection and prevention. "I'm a detective and want to focus on dealing with criminals and crime, not on being a police bureaucrat. 'There's been a sea change

since I joined the police. It used to be all about catching criminals, bent lawyers and corrupt policemen.

But know Sir Paul Condon's [the Commissioner of the Metropolitan agenda is different to that. The London beat is now more about the feelgood factor.

'Conviction policy is taking has been involved in the invesa back seat to public-image tigation of some of the most page 6 | spectacular cases of art theft, policing.

Mass murder' plan The IRA planned to carry out the "mass murder" of police and soldiers with a new year's eve bomb attack.

Drink-drive fear An 18 per cent rise in positive breath tests shows that a growing number of motorists are ignoring the Christmas campaign

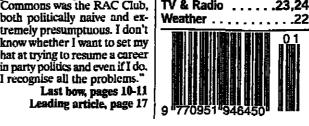
against drink-driving. Page 3 Indurain retires largely on the mature of society unravelling" and because a growing number of offenders Miguel Indurain, the only man to win the Tour de France five believe that they can get away years in a row, announced his

> Hedge victory The man said to be Britain's most successful amateur lawyer notched up his latest victory yes-

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Good Chinese don't love us - Patter

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

Chris Patten, the last governor of Hong Kong, has spoken openly of the mixed British legacy, as he prepares to sail out of Hong Kong in six months

time on I July. decent Chinese men and the colonial power, not lo "I think that it's difficult for women in Hong Kong to speak recognise that.

openly with great public enthusiasm for Britain's contribution and role in Hong Kong, he said in an interview with The Independent which was notably free of any flag-waving.

"Candidly, being colonised causes difficult moral, historical issues and it would be narrowminded and ungenerous of us,

were reserved for those who were once bastions of the colonial regime and are now cheerleaders for the new order. "I wonder what value system

they're most attached to. You very often hear them say you've got to be realistic, people in Hong Kong are very realistic. What they actually mean by that has nothing to do with the peo-

Mr Patten's harshest words ple of Hong Kong but everything to do with themselves. It doesn't seem to be so much to do with realism as a lack of commitment, sustained commitment, to the values which have shaped this community."

He dismissed the idea that he himself might drop back into a prominent role in British politics when he returns to the UK. "I find the suggestions.

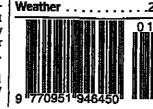
both politically naive and extremely presumptuous. I don't know whether I want to set my hat at trying to resume a career in party politics and even if I do. I recognise all the problems." Last bow, pages 10-11

sometimes made, that you can

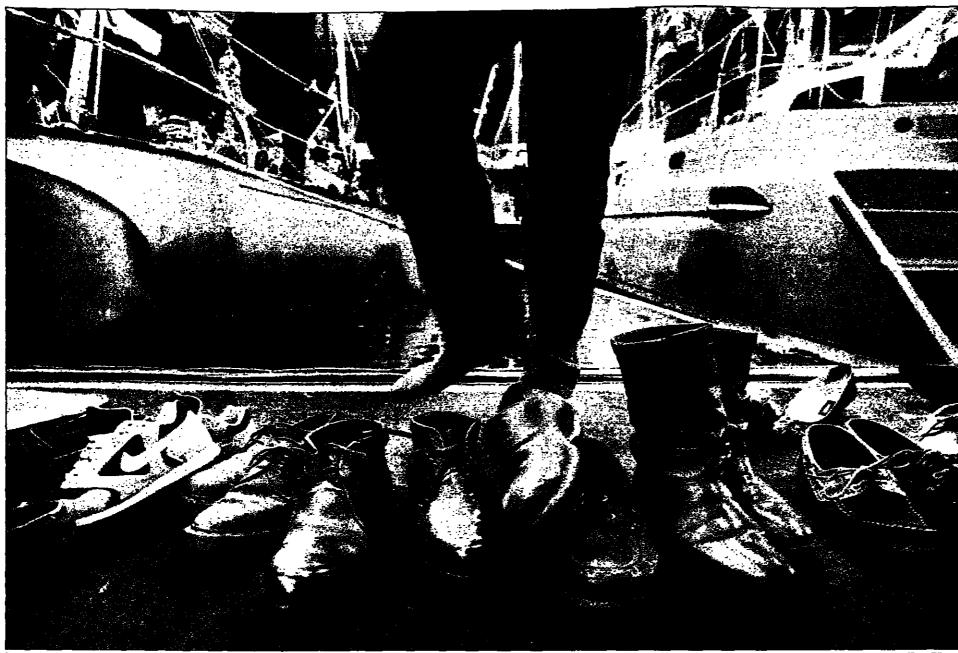
drop in and out of Westminster

politics as though the House of

Leading article, page 17



at a cinema near you now



Visitors to the 1997 London International Boat Show at Earls Court yesterday took off their shoes before boarding vessels. The show officially opens today

IRA planned mass murder, say RUC

David McKittrick ireland correspondent

The IRA planned to carry out the "mass murder" of police and soldiers with a New Year's Eve bomb attack in north Belfast. the Royal Ulster Constabulary said vesterday.

Police yesterday put on show a 1,000lb device found in a van which had been left in the extensive grounds of a local hostelry, the Belfast Castle. It had been placed inside two

curity forces into the grounds and then detonate the device. A bomb of such size, if set off close to a patrol, could have been expected to wreck even an armoured vehicle, killing or seriously injuring those inside.

The plan failed, however, when a member of the public

cle and reported it to the police. The device was defused in a three-day military operation.

a series of IRA operations over recent months which have demonstrated that the organisation is intent on killing members of the security forces. A soldier was killed at army headquarters in Lisburn, Co Antrim in early October, but most of the other attacks have, in IRA terms, been failures.

RUC chief superintendent They said the intention was William Davidson said the demassive casualties, adding: "There were a number of functions at the castle. This is a densely populated area and also an area where large numbers of teenagers frequent, especially at a time like New Year's Eve.

Attempts by the IRA to bomb

themselves into peace talks -

selves up rather than the target

are nothing new, formerly se-

cret Metropolitan Police papers

released vesterday at the Pub-

as Michael Collins was planning

his campaign to wrest inde-

pendence from Britain, his ac-

live service units, whether

officially sanctioned or free-

lance, were using more direct

tacties to concentrate Prime

Minister Lloyd-George's mind

They torched the home of a

on the coming talks.

In the summer of 1921, just

lic Record Office reveal.

and for bombers to blow them-

John Crossland

death and injury with this device Provos moving to take life. I doesn't bear thinking about. Anyone would be extremely foolish not to be concerned The incident is the latest in about the prospects for the

coming weeks."

As well as being braced for further IRA attacks, the security forces are also worried about an escalation of loyalist violence. Loyalists have already planted two booby-trap carbombs in recent weeks, and the continuing IRA campaign is generally thought to increase the chances of further loyalist

Billy H gressive Unionist Party, which has links to the paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force, said he regarded the loyalist ceasefire to be officially holding, but warned that tensions were growing.

He said: "This find proves this is all-out war back again in "The potential for dreadful Northern Ireland, with the

Royal Irish Constabulary po-liceman in Tooting, south Lon-

don, cut telephone wires along

the rail lines to the West of England, shot and wounded a rail-

way signalman and burnt his

box, and set up a bomb facto-

On 28 July 1921, a 21-year-

old Irishman Michael McIn-

ermy, one of Collins's agents

ordered, as today over to the

mainland to apply pressure for

a forthcoming political cam-paign, blew himself up at a

garage in Greenwich, south-

east London, which he had

rented as a bomb-making fac-

tory. He died in hospital from

An Irishman giving the alias

ry with fatal consequences.

don't think that loyalists can hold much longer.
"I would be concerned that

if the Provos don't draw back from trying to take life then the loyalists will go back completely and there will be no stopping them. I think it's slipping back by the hour. It's very serious." The series of both republican

and loyalist attacks have increased a general sense of foreboding in Belfast and elsewhere. So far as anyone knows there is no communication between republicans and uie Briusii governimei assumption widespread that all sides are doing little more than marking time before the general election

In the meantime, however. the IRA appears intent on using violence to keep the Irish issue high on the British polit-

of James Edwards had rented the garage for 10 shillings a week paid in advance. McInerny, who posed as a mechan-

In the debris of the garage firemen found incendiary bombs, two revolvers, part of a Lewis gun and many rounds of ammunition. More importantly, in a burnt wallet, they found a complete formula for constructing incendiary bombs. The notes record: "When black powder is confined there is always a danger of explosion and if the box [drawn with a wick protruding from the top] is merely held in place by tacks there would be a tendency for the whole outfit to blow up."

ic, was one of his team.

Cold snap set to last through the weekend

Michael Streeter

Britain looks set for colder temperatures today with the Big Chill lasting at least until Sunday as the row over cold weather payments hotted up.

Forecasters predicted that stronger winds from the Northeast would cause parts of the country to feel even colder today, with snow flurries in Kent and the east coast causing more problems for motorists.

Mille Hattiet H Labour spokesman for Social Security, said it was a "scandal" that millions of people were so poor they had to choose between heating and food. She called for improved pensions and for VAT on fuel to be cut from 8 per cent to no more than

5 per cent. "We shouldn't have so many people who have worked hard all their lives, either out at work or bringing up their chil-dren, who then find they retire into poverty."

David Winnick, who led a

delegation of Labour MPs to Downing Street calling for change to the way cold-weather payments are made, said their case had been strengthened by the events of the past

"It shows the farcical nature of the system that exists that it has taken over a week of very, very cold weather before at long last payments are being made," said Mr Winnick, MP for Waisall North, Labour MP Ann Clywd also called for the wind chill factor to be taken into account when measuring how cold it really is.

Andrew Mitchell, junior So-

cial Security minister, said he was satisfied with the way cold weather payments system op-

erated. We have announced that the scheme is triggered today across large parts of the country. A fur-

ther £8m will be being paid." Some £19m had been paid out since Christmas, he added. Mr Mitchell said the Government was considering taking the wind chill factor into account,

but warned it would not be easy. Despite the end of the nondays, motoring organisations reported quiet roads as many often forced to hide their people stayed at home rather relationship when out in than risk trying to get to work. A spokesman for the Auto-

mobile Association said: "Traffic is very, very light and we Grass that's certainly didn't see anything like always greener However, for those who did

venture out there were problems getting cars started. The Grassland and RAC said it was reciving up to 3,000 emergency calls an hour yesterday.

The coldest place in Britain "evergreen" grass that refuses to fade in dry conditions, making it easier

on Wednesday night was RAF Benson in Oxfordshire, where to maintain golf courses, a temperature of minus 12C was parks and football pitches. recorded. The warmest place was in the

Western Isles of Scotland which enjoyed a halmy 7C overnight, on a par with Nice.

a rush hour."

The London Weather Centre said: "We are not expecting a big thaw in the next lew days and if anything things are going to get colder with snow working its way to the south coast by tonight," a spokeswoman said.

The cold snap claimed another two lives yesterday bringing the death toll to at least 10

significant shorts

Drug blamed End of the for teenager's world is death at party not nigh

A 16-year-old boy collapsed and died after taking a drug at a New Year party, police said vesterday. Robert Hitchens, from Upminster, Essex, is believed to have taken ecstasy before collapsing at the David Lloyd Sports Centre, Heston, west London.

He was taken to Ealing Hospital after police were called to the centre at 7.36am on New Year's Day. He died that afternoon. A postmortem examination is due

to take place today.

The teenager's death is the third in recent days thought to have been connected with drugs. In Cardiff, a Muslim teenager who is thought to have taken an Ecstasy tablet. collapsed and died during a huge rave party. And Nicola Edwards, 24, from Middlesbrough, died after being detained by police in Strathclyde.

Lottery cash 'misspent'

Three quarters of people think the National Lottery pays out too much money to a few big causes, according to research published by the Consumers' Association yesterday. Many people also believe lottery cash should be distributed equally throughout the country, said the survey of 2,000 adults.

Which? senior editor Andrew McIlwraith said: The Lottery is undoubtedly a very successful way of raising money for good causes. But a clear national strategy is needed to ensure the cash raised is distributed evenly and fairly."

Mixed-race heartache

Mixed-race couples are regular victims of racial abuse and most often suffer taunts from blacks, it is claimed today. An estimated that 40 per cent of black men and 20 per cent of black

According to Company magazine, which published the claims, black men who go out with white women come in for the most flak, because it is feared they then turn their back on black culture.

Interviews with 10 couples revealed incy nad folilinely suffered racist jibes and were

Scientists at the Institute of Environmental Research in Wales have developed an

Jehovah's Witnesses may breathe a sigh of relief this week. For the end of the world failed to take place for the second time in 20 years.

A growing number of
Christian academics believe

that Christ was born in 4BC, making 1996, 2,000 years after his birth, the real millennial milestone. But those who agree with Archbishop James Ussher, a 17th century archbishop, who believed the world would endure for only 6.000 years, would probably have spent this Christmas cashing in their life insurance policies.

"Archbishop Usher used the Anno Mundi calendar, which was a popular way to mark time. According to this, Christ's birth was widely considered to have taken place in year 4,000 of the world, which meant that it would have ended on Wednesday [1 January] at the latest," said Marina Benjamin, whose book on the social significance of millennia and other endings is published later this year.

Jojo Moyes Leading article, Page 17

Serial rapist tears grow

A suspected serial rapist may have struck again in the spa town of Bath, after a 23-yearold woman was dragged into an alley and indecently assaulted. The attack follows a major police investigation into a series of sex assaults in Bath and the nearby city of Bristol since 1991.

So far they have identified connections between six known incidents - three rapes and two attempted attacks in Bath and one rape in Bristol. It is understood that six further possible cases have been found, although police have not disclosed details.

A team of 60 detectives is also examining the suspected abduction of a 26-year-old woman from a Bath night club last year and the murders of two women from outside clubs in Bristol and women have a white partner. Plymouth. Jason Bennetto

No more tickets to ride

All 28,000 Metropolitan Police officers have had free travel passes withdrawn after the discovery that some were being fraudulently used by their relatives and friends. The abuse of the London Underground passes, which allows free use of tube trains. was discovered by ticket

inspectors. A small number of officers were found to have lent their passes to civilians and continued to use their warrant card, which also gives free travel.

ennetto

23 (Per 17)

A London Underground spokesman said evidence had been uncovered to suggest that "significant fraud" was taking place. Jason Bennetto

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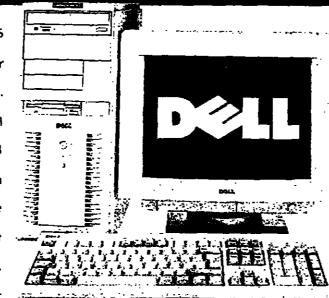
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Serial rupist fears grow

Contemporary art is high fashion for first time since sixties as world focus turns to Britain



Arts News Editor

Art is sexy and hip for the first time since the Sixties. London has ousted New York and Paris as the epiceutre of the contemporary art world.

Such assertions have been made before, but this time they seem to be borne out by the facts. The London Contemporary Art Fair, ART 97, which opens on the 15th of this month, is set to become one of the glamour events of the social calendar as well as an economic barometer for the art market.

The art world's style leaders, such as Damien Hirst, the Turner Prize winner Douglas Gordon and his fellow shortlisted artist Gary Hume, will have works on show, priced at up to £100,000.

London at the heart of art including Adam Chodzko, the 97, says: "The scene is a par- hard to find. Hollywood is emmixed-media artist who uses photographs sometimes sent to him by members of the public and Liz Arnold, the surrealist who has exhibited at The Saatchi Gallery's Young British

such as Liam Gillick, the installationist, the photographers Susan Derges and Gary Fabian Miller and the painters Maria Chevska and Mark Francis. A Francis monoprint, worth about £400 a year ago, is likely to fetch up to £1,200 at the art fair, one indication of the rising

stock of British artists.

ticularly exciting one. The whole British art phenomenon has been artist-led, starting famously with Damien Hirst. And now there are young dynamic dealers coming up alongside the young dynamic artists. London Artists shows, as well as names galleries such as Robert Prime. Lottahammer and Laurent Delaye have sprung up to show

the bright young things."

The glossy style magazine Harpers & Queen is hosting a charity gala evening at the fair, and its latest issue declares that art, not comedy as often predicted, is "the new rock 'n' roll". Lucy Sicks, director of ART Supporting evidence is not coverage of the Turner Prize. But as a group they have of the moment, just as their excitement of the world of mass ated to London's Cork Street.

barking on a series of art related films with Merchant Ivory's current Picasso biopic with Anthony Hopkins soon to be followed by Malcolm McDowell as Francis Bacon, Michelle Pfeiffer as Georgia O'Keefe, with Modigliani and Jackson Pollock vet to be cast.

Rock stars are turning to painting, either doing it themselves as in the case of David Bowie (who has joined the editorial board of Modern Painters magazine), or commentating upon it, in the case of Jarvis Cocker and the recent television

And when the Princess of Wales dropped most of the so-cieties of which she was patron. she was careful to hang on to London's cutting-edge Serpentine Gallery.

The amorphous group informally led by Damien Hirst and known as Young British Artists may not all be as designer chic as their leader, and their style is far from homogeneous, ranging from Hirst's udderless bovine cross-sections to Rachel Whiteread's cast of a House to Douglas Gordon's video of Hitchcock's Psycho slowed down to last 24 hours.

tion in international art shows. Dealers such as Jay Jopling, who represents Hirst, are said to run their stables of artists in the same high-profile way as the Sixties pop impresario Andrew Loog Oldham once managed the Rolling Stones, Exhibitors such as Jibby Beane no longer just use a traditional art gallery

but lease out a Smithfield ware-

house with live-performance

art models on show among the

artworks, reminiscent of a Six-

attracted considerable atten-

ties happening. And the Young British Artists have grabbed the mood Sixties lauded the whizzo artists who have not yet gradu-

ney grabbed the mood of the Sixties. According to the art critic Martin Gayford, who sits on the editorial board of Modern Painters with David Bowie, "New York and Germany have been quiescent since the catastrophic collapse of the Eighties art bubble. Right now, for the first time in history, London is the place. The Young British Artists are ironic, super-cool, disengaged, and disenchanted.

while simultaneously being

fizzy, peppy and energetic ...

Where the Pop artists of the

Gayford suggests the catch-all label "dinginess with attitude". For the ninth London Contemporary Art Fair, which runs for five days at the Business Design Centre in Islington, attitude is part of the attraction, glamour another factor, but sales, higher prices and the continuing international kudos of young British talent the sine qua non. The organisers are confident of a record year, generating sales in excess of £2m, with galleries taking part. There is a "discovery zone" for new talent-spotting, represented by some of the new breed of Britain's artist-led spaces including The Tannery, Catalyst Arts, Hales Gallery and Cairn Gallery - converted factories and railway buildings selling new

production, the YBAs' focus is

on the dinginess of everyday life.

Rise in breath-test failures brings call for lower limit

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

A growing number of motorists appear to be ignoring the Christmas campaign against drink-driving. Police revealed yesterday that there had been 18 per cent rise in the number of positive breath-tests. News that 5,209 drivers in

England and Wales were arrested, compared with last year's figure of 4,330, brought renewed calls for a new lower "one-pint" limit and tougher police powers to stop motorists. Figures released by the As-

sociation of Chief Police Officers show there were 974 alcohol-related accidents during the course of the Christmas campaign, an increase of 4 per cent over last year's figure of 939.

Paul Manning, secretary of Acpo's traffic committee and an assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said: "Both figures show there is no room for complacency and there are still people prepared to risk the lives of others and themselves by acting irresponsibly."

Mr Manning added that he believed the increase was partly due to the police's new policy of breathalysing every driver myorvers in all acceptances may also be due of the increase may also be due to a rise in the number of motor a rise in the number of motor at the number of motor and the increase may also be due to a rise in the number of motor at the hard-core drink-drivers are middle-aged men who are less to about a pint of strong beer.



One for the road: The scarred face of the woman who featured in this year's advertising campaign against drink-driving

torists tested, but police were The advertisements featured a unable to supply a figure for the total number of tests performed. young woman severely scarred from a road accident caused by

Mr Manning dismissed sug-gestions that the Department of Transport's £1.2m television

her drunken boyfriend. Cam-

likely to be affected by the ad-

Among the police forces with the biggest increases were Gwent where 117 motorists failed breath tests, compared with 56 last year, but officers tested nearly double the number of drivers. The number of drivers testing positive in Northumbria rose to 181, from 112 Almost one in four of the

672 motorists tested failed. There was a 20 rise in South Wales, a 35 per cent increase in West Mercia and 15 per cent in Lancashire. In Greater Manchester, there were 361 arrests following positive tests over Christmas and New Year, a rise of more than 7 per cent. The Metropolitan Police

recorded 895 positive tests compared with 850 last year. The number of alcohol-related accidents also rose by nine to 144. In Merseyside, however, there was a 28 per cent drop in positive tests despite an almost threefold increase in checks to 11,160. Dorset and Glouces-

tershire also reported a drop. Glenda Jackson, a shadow transport minister, said that a future Labour government would review the existing laws with a mind to lowering the lepaigners point out that many of the hard-core drink-drivers are of blood to 50mg - equivalent

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Sperm counts halve over decade as spermatogenic arrest. The in-cidence of complete spermato-cidence of complete spermato-

Liz Hunt Health Editor

Sperm production by middleaged men has deteriorated by as much as 50 per cent in the last 10 years and testicles are smaller, according to a study by Finnish scientists which provides further evidence of declining

male fertility. The proportion of men in Finland aged between 35 to 69 with normal spermatogenesis the production of sperm - fell from about 56 per cent to 27 per cent between 1981 and 1991.

Over the same period there was a significant increase in the number of men with no mature sperm cells, a condition known two groups. More than half tions on deteriorating spermations on deteriorating spermations.

genic arrest rose from 8 per cent to 20 per cent, and of partial spermatogenic arrest from 31 per cent to 48.5 per cent.

The post-mortem study of two groups, one comprising 264 men who died in 1981 and the other of 264 men who died in 1991 showed that the weight of the men's testicles had also diminished over the study period; seminiferous tubes were smaller, and there was increased fibrosis (thickening) of testicular tissue. The mean age of the groups was 53, and there were no significant differences

cation (accidents or suicide). Writing in tomorrow's issue of the British Medical Journal, Dr Jarkko Pajarinen from the

Department of Forensic Medicine at Helsinki University. and colleagues write: " ... the incidence of normal spermatogenesis has decreased significantly among middle-aged men, with a parallel increase in the rate of disorders of spermatogenesis ... between 1981 and 1991. This finding suggests that the quality and dispatch of spermatogenesis are deterio-

Another Scandinavian team first alerted the scientific community in 1992 to declining

sperm counts. Professor Niels Skakkebaek at Copenhagen University reviewed studies involving almost 15,000 men between 1938 and 1992 and found the average sperm count had fallen from 113 million per millilitre in 1940 to 66 million in 1990. The definition of a "normal" sperm count fell from 60 million per millilitre to 20 million in the same period. Critics claimed fundamental flaws in the data but two studies in rating in middle-aged men and also confirms earlier presump- France and Belgium in 1994

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

The man with a credible claim to be Britain's most successful amateur lawyer notched up his latest courtroom victory yesterday, saving a 230-year-old hedgerow from destruction.

Now, both conservationists and the Government must consider the implications of Colin Seymour's triumph - over his lo-cal parish council - for safeguarding thousands of miles of hedgerow, dating back to 18th and 19th Century Enclosure

Mr Seymour, a 63-year-old former teacher, who is partially deaf and lives on invalidity benefit, has won 81 legal bandes, mostly involving preserving rights of way and righting environmental wrongs. Big councils and companies have found themselves forced to take remedial actions costing them bundreds of thousands of

In yesterday's ruling, Judge Tom Cracknell, sitting at Hull

County Court, said that under transformed the English land-the 1765 Act, which created the scape. 50 yards of hedge in question Flamborough Parish Council, was still required to maintain it. The council had wanted it destroyed to make room for a green for the village's bowls

The judge pointed out: "It is a singularly indistinguishable hedge... very badly maintained, unkempt and straggly." But, he added: "The courts cannot and do not strike down statute merely because it is old and passed by a Parliament that was very far from being elected by universal suffrage.

in the coastal village for six years, said: "I'm delighted with the outcome of this case, but there are always new legal bat-tles to fight and although this hedge is safe, others will have to be fought over.

Conservationists believe that Acts cover a further 40,000 miles of hedges. These statutes ended communal farming and

But the judge warned: "It would be wrong to read too much into this case in terms of significance for roadside hedges generally... whether a provi-sion is binding has to be judged in each individual case."

Peter Bowler, chairman of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, which has supported the action, said: "It is a great day both for wildlife and countryside landscape in the future because the judgement will give us a stronger arm to protect thou-sands of miles of hedgerow."

Some villagers are unhappy Mr Seymour, who has lived that their neighbour has scotched the bowling plans. Trevor Pearson, a councillor, said: "The village would not have an entrance to its school. library or village hall if we had not removed other hedges." And the judge commented:

"He [Mr Seymour] may be a more than 4,000 other enclosure hero to some but, to others, I have no doubt that he is the villain of the piece and a thorough nuisance.



Great notion: A professor

of good ideas

The world's first "professor" of good ideas has been appointed to head a new university department of suggestion

Geoff Lloyd, a former gas fitter, puts on his gown as a re-search fellow at the University of Wales on Monday. "The university wants a European centre of excellence to promote the awareness of employee sug-gestion schemes, said Mr LLoyd, 50. "The unit here is

For once, Britain is ahead of America and Mr Lloyd has been asked to help the Uni-versity of Central Michigan lo set up a similar unit.

The move is part of a revolution in suggestion schemes, of which the estimated 100,000plus annually in Britain save industry around £500m. The days of the tin box

marked "Suggestion Scheme" hanging in the works canteen and never emptied are passing Go-ahead companies now tap into employees' cost-cutting brainwaves in a big way. The new academic's former

company, British Gas, has launched a scheme to save up to £300m in its pipeline and storage arm over the next two years, largely from employees bright ideas. There are still firms with the

tin box kind of suggestion schemes," said Mr Lloyd, a former chairman of the United Kingdom Association of Suggestion Schemes. "I want to raise the profile of suggestion schemes and show how they can become an important part of problem-solving and a mecha-

As part of Mr Lloyds's PhD in suggestion schemes, he has sent out Britain's first national suggestion scheme survey, to 25,000 people in 200 companies. submitted, or why they were not.

Mr Lloyd, who has written a book on the subject, said his unit would be asking what drove people to make suggestions. "Is it money, recognition by their peers or by their managers, or is it love of the company?

He will give lectures on the subject to students on MSc and Master of Business Administration courses.

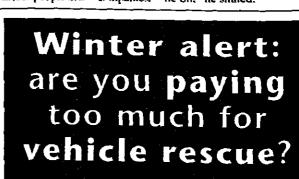
Six best suggestions

■ A Royal Navy commander picked up £25,000 for a fuel-saving idea – called the Harrier ski-jump – for Sea Harriers. Taking off vertically used vast quantities of fuel. The commander suggested the aircraft take off from an angled platform, which is much more fuel efficient An East London gas stores man suggested bar coding supplies to identify slow-moving items. The payoff was £4.4m in the first year. pounds by applying a factory work-er's brainwave to put sandpaper on only one side of each matchbox. ■ A labourer in Bristol called And Hitchman gave his name to the Hitchman's swivel in 1993, an at tachment that helps lay gas pipe underground. He won £11,000. ■ Someone spotted a way of de veloping the Post It note when an experiment involving glue went

wrong. ■ A British Rail worker, tired of hav ing to replace copper wire on over-head cable, suggested fitting a rayon sleeve over the wire. It is believed to have saved hundreds of thou sands of pounds.

Mr Lloyd, who left British Gas after six years running suggestion schemes, has himself only ever made one suggestion - and he was fobbed off. "The experience turned me into a passionate advocate of how to treat people who submit suggestions," he said.

And the first good idea after hanging up his mortar board behind the door? "I'll put the ket-



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after his release from jail was vesterday banned by the High Court from entering any council buildings or schools in a south-east London borough.

The emergency injunction won by Greenwich council against 50-year-old David Jennings, which also forbids him to carry firearms or other offensive weapons or interfere with children, teachers and other staff, is effective until a full hearing next Monday at which a permanent court order will be

The council's solicitor, Helen Vautier, said after yesterday's private hearing that the injunction "in no sense pre-judges the result of the full hearing". But if Mr Jennings broke any of its terms, he would be in contempt of court, she said.

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This means that Mr Jennings, due for release today, will be at risk of being sent back to jail if he breaches the order.

Yesterday's emergency hearing became necessary after it was learned that Mr Jennings was to be set free four days earlier than expected.

Last month, newspapers reported an allegation that Mr Jennings, a father of 10, had told a chaplain at Highpoint Prison, Suffolk, that he would carry out a "Dunblane massacre" because he was outraged at Greenwich council's treatment of his children in care.

The High Court delayed a decision on the council's initial application for an injunction until next Monday, 24 hours before Mr Jennings, who lives in Eltham within the borough of Greenwich, was due to be released from his 30-month sentence for assault.

But following a review of the was announced on Tuesday that dren to see him.

he would be released today.

A council spokesman said: "The council and the police have worked closely together to take all necessary steps to review the safety of schools and council buildings in the borough.

"Because of the new year holiday and the unexpected announcement of the impending release, we are seeking the help of the media to ensure people in our community including teachers and parents are informed about what has happened."

Mr Jennings was moved from Highpoint Prison to Elmley jail on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent following his alleged threat and is due to be released after serv-ing about half of his sentence. He has previous convictions for assaulting council officers and possessing a firearm in public.

Yesterday's injunction, grant-ed by Mr Justice Butterfield, bans Mr Jennings from entering or attempting to enter any council building or school and from going within a certain distance of some of them; owning or carrying firearms or any other offensive weapon; and interfering with any children. teachers or other staff at the council's schools, or any council employee.

Mr Jennings' solicitor, James Bancroft, said his client would strongly contest the court hearing. The terms of the injunction being sought were "very onerous and extremely severe, meaning he could not live an ordinary life in an area where he has lived for 25 years".

Mr Bancroft added: "He admits saying something similar to the alleged comments, but there was never any intention to make a serious threat. It was just rubbish he spouted while unburdening himself to the prison chaplain because the social sertime he had spent in custody, it vices had failed to bring his chil-



صكنا من الاعل

Plug pulled on electrical goods 'price-fixing' they offered a discount on the of 22 stores, refrigerators at least 20 per cent less than high-of conspiracy between retailers

Glenda Cooper

As the annual frenzy of the January sales continues, tough new measures to stop alleged pricefixing of electrical appliances such as washing machines are expected to be recommended by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission this spring.

The MMC is expected to urge the Government to prohibit manufacturers from recommending prices to retailers and is also considering whether to require them to sign a formal undertaking that they will not refuse to supply discount retailers or try to control prices. The Economist reports today.

While manufacturers and retailers strenuously deny pricefixing, according to sources close to the MMC, the commission thinks that the consumer has been getting a raw deal when it comes to buying "white goods" such as washing machines, fridges and dishwashers.

The MMC has twice delayed the publication of its inquiry into allegations of price-fixing, but is finally expected to report back this April.
The 1976 Resale Prices Act

made price-fixing illegal and also prohibits suppliers from

withholding or threatening to withhold goods or from offering less favourable terms to discount retailers.

Two years ago the Consumers Association surveyed high-street stores and found that many top-brand electrical goods were being priced identically across the country. When the association telephoned a range of stores, several said that they would lose their dealership if

said: "The prices you see in the stores are set by the manufacturer". Another said: "It's difficult to do discounts as

A recent survey for the BBC's Panorama programme found that identical video recorders were priced at £479,99 in 17 out bership club which charges at analysts Verdict, said that claims

shops not to".

manufacturers exert pressure on

recommended retail price. A £249.99 in 16 out of 19 stores, leading chain store in Slough and washing machines at £429.99 at ten out of eleven stores. In 1994 the combined market

share of five retail chains selling domestic electrical appliances was 42 per cent. It is alleged that retailers who step out of line are punished by exclusion. Jim Murphy, the managing director of Price Costco, a warehouse mem-

street outlets, told The Econo- and manufacturers should be mist that excuses given by manufacturers for refusing to trade with him ranged from the environment being wrong to his staff not being trained in how the product works. "The current system does not encourage ... efficient distribution to the con-

sumer." he said. Richard Hyman, of the retail treated with caution: "It is not quite as it seems. It is not meeting in smoke-filled rooms ... it isn't that overt."

But he added that the argument that customer service would not be good enough in warehouse outlets was not correct: "If the consumer thinks it's OK to buy from there then it

Film maker keeps options open on Fred West rights

Clare Garner

A film version of the life of Cromwell Street mass murderer Fred West may still be made for television. The independent production company which has bought up the memoirs admitted yesterday that it had not ruled out exploiting the rights in future.

While there are no immediate plans to develop a film based on West's confessiontapes, memoirs and blue-movie videos, the Portman Entertainment Group has not ruled out the possibility of a television film or mini-series.

In a statement, John Banks, chairman of Portman, said yesterday that the rights were just one of many projects in the

produced the television mini-series A Woman of Substance, was involved in financing the Hugh Grant film An Awfully Big Adventure, and acquired the British rights to Home and Away.

"A production company of Portman's size will acquire a considerable number of rights to material or stories during the course of a year, only a tiny number of which result in completed productions," said Mr Banks.

"When and if the topic comes before the board of Portman for full consideration, the sensitivity of the subject matter will, of course, be taken into account. It could only have been done in collaboration with a broadcaster - the BBC were originally interested - so the approach

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pipeline of the company which would have had to have been very sensitive."

The £12,000 film-rights deal was brokered by Peter Harris, the Official Solicitor whose task it is to maximise the financial return on the West estate. But the deal has led to a review of the law governing the duties of the Official Solicitor by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay.

Gary Streeter, Minister at the Lord Chancellor's Office, said the Official Solicitor had done nothing wrong in law, but the review had been announced because of public concern. He said that when he and the Lord Chancellor heard the news about the film rights being sold "we both felt this cannot be right

... and therefore we need to urgently review the score".

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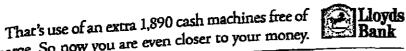
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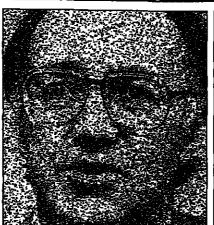
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Top Tories jockey for position: The Independent offers a guide to weight and form



Stephen Dorrell

Profile: aged 44, Secretary of State for Health. Dripping wet but drying out fast Campaign strategy: meets backbenchers for quiet chat in his rooms; bidding for centre-right ground with former Clarke votes in the bag. Carefully timed briefing by "friends" to Daily Telegraph, noticeboard of the Euro-sceptics. Form: coming up hard on the rails; still to prove himself with the sceptics.



Michael Howard

Profile: Aged 55, Home Secretary - rightwinger, impeccable Euro-sceptic, with long-term hostility to federal Europe. Campaign strategy: nubber chicken circuit in safe Tory seats; leading Cabinet Euro-rebel: the man to stand up to Ken Clarke. Careful to avoid being seen as

disloval Form: cunning runner, favourite for the big race. Odds 2:1 on.

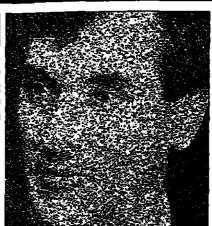


Malcolm Rifkind

Profile: Aged 50, Foreign Secretary – Majorite centrist, trimming to the Eurosceptic right.

Campaign strategy: uses FO as platform for world statesman image; made big impression with speech on new Atlantic aliance with America.

Form: dark horse, coming strong but could fall at first fence - his majority in Edinburgh Pentlands a vulnerable 4,290.



John Redwood

Profile: Aged 45 - Thatcherite Euro-sceptic with a penchant for populism - done all the running since resigning from Cabinet.
Campaign strategy: has met every backbench Tory MP from the 1992 intake in assiduous campaign to dispel "Vulcan".
intage, Lost against Major but showed metal

Form: a stayer, who could still come through. Second favourite.



Profile: Aged 43, Secretary of State for Defence - hard-right Thatcherite torch

Campaign strategy: keeping head down since "gaffe" about SAS at party conference. Assiduously courts loyal friends on Euro-sceptic right.

Form: few outings make it difficult to judge, but has still has eye on main prize. Younger than the rest of the field. Odds - 4:1



Gillian Shephard

Profile: Aged 56, Sccretary of State for Education and Employment – a Majorette ready to show the men a thing or two. Campaign strategy: the Joan of Arc of the Cabinet, fighting Ken Clarke for more money for schools; Major over his demands for more grammar schools. Form: doughty fighter with no realistic chance of winning. But they said that about Thatcher. Odds - 100:1.

Dorrell first out of stalls in leadership race

Chief Political Correspondent

Stephen Dorrell vesterday stole a march on the rest of the field for the Tory leadership contest Michael Howard, Malcolm Rifkind, Michael Portillo, Gillian Shephard and John Redwood - by allowing "friends" to claim that he wanted to see a fundamental shift in the Tory position on Europe. Only a week before, it was reported that Mr Howard had been planning to use an early opportunity to call for renegoopportunity to call for renegotiation of Britain's position in Europe. By going public first, Mr Dorrell succeeded in outflanking the Home Secretary.

Any doubt that a leadership contest is already under way should be dispelled by Mr Howard's diary for 1996 - he spoke at more constituency as-

most doubled. Some Tory MPs are already informally working for his election as leader.

Mr Howard was responsible for bringing to a head the internal tensions in the Cabinet on Europe at two highly charged Cabinet meetings last month. The Home Secretary ambushed sociation lunches and dinners Kenneth Clarke at a Cabinet than any other Cabinet minis- meeting on 5 December with a

demand that the Chancellor should produce a paper on the convergence criteria for the sin-

gle European currency.
There were briefings by
"friends" of Mr Howard, which clearly showed that he was the man to stand up to Mr Clarke. However, Mr Clarke then pulled a trick on the Cabinet. Ministers had been expecting a paper in the new year but the Chancellor delivered it at a meeting on 19 December.

His paper was torn to shreds by his colleagues and the Chancellor was ordered to return with a fresh paper in the new year. The significant factor was the number of ministers who now sided with Mr Howard. Mr Dorrell was among them. Others who chipped in included Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education.

Mr Clarke was able to claim a victory, because the Cabinet agreed to stick to the existing

policy on Europe, but the unpression was of a chancellor at bay. The intervention by Mr Dorrell was seen as an attempt by John Major to force Mr Clarke to move from the existing "wait and see" approach to a single currency, which the Euro-sceptics said yesterday was "untenable" for the election.

It will not be the first time Mr Major has used Mr Dotrell as his stalking horse. Last summer, Mr Dorrell called for a referendum on Europe when it was being resisted by the Chancellor. Within a few weeks, Mr Mathe Prime Minister could engineer a change of policy without risking a direct conflict between himself and his Chancellor.

The difficulty for Mr Major is to reach an agreed policy without forcing resignations from the pro-Clarke wing of the Tory party. The greatest fear among the Euro-sceptics is that they will be blamed for an election

Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence called for "unity, unity, unity" at the 1996 party conference. The aim against the former minister Mr Redwood and backbench Eurosceptics who were putting their principles above the party's election chances. Mr Redwood has since gone relatively quiet..

But the ground is moving under the Chancellor who is becoming more isolated in the Cabinet. Michael Heseltine. the Deputy Prime Minister. has stood by the Chancellor, but also has his own eye on the leadership election. Mr Major is likely to call his next door neighbour for a chat soon, to discuss the idea raised by Mr





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Departing MPs head for the real world

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

The worlds of banking, public affairs consultancy and the law are, presumably, looking for-ward to a boost this year as more than 150 MPs head out of the House of Commons and back into the real world.

With almost 60 Conservative members retiring, and as many again likely to lose their seats. the exodus is likely to take on Labour MPs are retiring, along with six Liberal Democrats and one Ulster Unionist.

In six months time, a quarter of the seats in the Commons will be filled by newcomers. While some of their previous incumbents will continue to haunt the precincts of Westminster, unable to tear themselves away, others will fade quietly into the background. A few, but probably only a few, will emerge into public life in another field.

Most of those leaving will say they are going because of ad-vancing age or ill-health, but one or two have already found lucrative bolt-holes. The former transport minister Steven Norris will earn £150,000 per year as director of the Road Haulage Association. He has already announced that he is leaving politics "for very straightforward financial reasons'

But what will become of those MPs who will fight to the last to keep their seats? Is there life for them after Westminster? George Walden, former ed-

ucation minister and Conservative MP for Buckingham, believes there is. He will retire at the general election, aged 55, but is not worried that he will

find it difficult to leave. He is for it pretty well, as was my wife. looking forward to reviving an interest in Russia and China that he developed in a former life as a diplomat. As a former chair of the Booker prize and as co-author with his wife of a book on art history, he has plenty of outside interests.

"I think the routine of the Commons is really quite nice for people to sort of moulder into. and that is a very good reason for moving on. It is full of real-

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ly rather good people operating a defunct system," he says. Others find the break with politics harder to make. Sir Gerrard Neale, lost his North Cornwall seat in 1992 and went back to his law practice. However, he did not move far - his office is across the road from the Commons and his firm repre-

sents a number of MPs. As the occupant of a marginal seat he was always philosophical about losing it during the 13 years he spent in Westminster. I think mentally I was prepared

But it's very difficult to prepare yourself emotionally because of the commitment which is there right up to the last day. But people are made redundant in all sorts of walks of life where they are equally committed," he says. Michael Knowles, who had a

majority of 500 in Nottingham East before the 1992 election. also knew he was likely to lose. But the world of sales, in which moved on so drew on his political experience and set up his own public affairs company.

Being an MP was an episode in a life in politics. Would I rather be there? Of course I would. But it can never be taken away from you. It's the biggest single honour anyone can have," he says.

Small wonder, then, that so many MPs are reluctant to leave. Ten sitting MPs, seven Conservative, two Labour and one the Tory defector Alan Howarth, are still looking for new seats either because they have not been reselected or because their seats are disap-

pearing in boundary changes. There are also many who itch to return to the fold. Among the new Conservative intake next spring will be three senior figures who lost their seats in 1992 Michael Fallon, former education minister, will return as member for Sevenoaks in Kent, John Maples, former deputy chairman, will take up Mr Howarth's Stratford-on-Avon seat and Francis Maude, former trade. Foreign Office and Treasury minister, will become the member for Hor-

Major's first battle cry set for the ides of March

Colin Brown

The Conservative Central Council in Bath on 14 and 15 March has been pencilled in by John Major as the ideal launch date for the General Election.

Ministerial sources said last night that current planning is for the key speakers to be limited to the Prime Minister, to Michael Heseltine, his deputy, and to Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman.

"That makes it look more likely that Major wants to use it to start the election campaign," said one Whitehall source.

The Central Council, offering a platform for Mr Major to give a rallying call to party workers and agents from all over Britain, could provide the springboard for an election on 10 April or 1 May.

The Ulster Unionists may upset his well-laid plans for an election timed to coincide with the implementation of the budget tax cuts on 1 April, and better spring weather. If the Ulster Unionists, led by David Trimble, appear ready to force an early election, the Prime Minister may still try to beat them to the punch by calling an election on 20 March. Tory backbenchers

said yesterday that Mr Major may not be a strategist, but he is a master tactician. They expect him to navigate his way to a date of

his own choosing.

The other hurdles which could upset his planning include the by-election in Wirral South following the death of Tory MP Barry Porter. Mr Major does not want to go to the country after losing another seat, and, by convention, can delay the by-election for three months. Labour is planning to force the election in March, if it has not been called by the Tories.

The X-factor in Mr Major's plans is the state of his own party. After a row about cheating by government whips, Labour has withdrawn all "pairing" co-operation. "We will force mining. will force ministers to come back from trips

to vote, said a Lalwar source. The battle will begin as soon as MPs return on 13 January from their New Year's break with the remaining stages of the Bill on fixed sentencing. The hig hurdle is the Finance Bill, which will be given a second reading on 14 January. A government source said the odds against Labour defeating the Government on it, and forcing an election, were 4:1. Enough perhaps for a flutter by Tony Blair.

4: 65.

news

Tide turns at last on Britain's dirty beaches

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

The United Kingdom's resort beaches are becoming cleaner and better managed, giving the great British seaside holiday a better than ever chance of reviving, according to the Tidy Britain Group.

Having carefully surveyed 139 beaches last August, the height of the holiday season, the group sees unmistakable signs of improvement.

Its inspectors graded beaches as A, B, C or D based on how well they scored in access, cleanliness and litter control on shore, safety in the water, control of dogs, facilities and recreation, maintenance and public information. Grades C and D were deemed "unsatisfactory".

A grade A was given to 41 beaches, of which Bournemouth's are the most popular, Brighton was a B and Blackpool's north and south beaches were Cs.

Eleven resorts - 8 per cent were assessed as grade D, including Southport on Merseyside. East Anglia had the cleanest beaches and the most improved ones, while the North-west was the region with the worst. None of its beaches had a grade A.

Trevor Dickson, who headed the survey, said it showed a big improvement on 1995. Ten more resorts had achieved a in that category or grade B.

'We're encouraged," he said. "We feel the findings of earlier surveys have been well received by the local councils

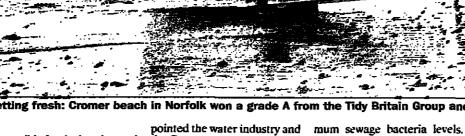
provement. The survey did not cover the schemes, largely to comply with amount of sewage pollution in the bathing water - although to score well resorts had to provide prominent notice boards giving this information to the public.

responsible for the beaches and

we can now see a real im-

The Government released the latest figures on sewage pollution a few weeks ago. They showed that in 1996 89.6 per grade A and two-thirds of all the cent of Britain's 472 designat-beaches inspected were either ed bathing waters met the minimum, mandatory European Union standard - a minuscule improvement on the 89.0 per

cent pass rate in 1995. The tiny increase disap-



the Government, because since The water companies now say privatisation about £2bn has there are other sources of been sent on coastal sewage sewage pollution such as buildings with their own sewage outan EU directive setting maxi-

Blackpool central and north beaches met the EU's basic standard for the first time this year, thanks to a £150m improvement scheme. But the resort's south beach still failed. find that the great majority of dom beaches had now been most stringent EU standard.

Mr Dickson said sewage pollution in water had been given undue weight over the cleanliness and good management of heaches on shore. "Our surveys

bathe, enjoy the fresh air and views and to walk, not to go in the water." he said. Nonetheless, 31 United King-

awarded the European Blue Flag, nearly twice the number for 1995. The flag is given to beaches that are clean and well run on shore and whose water meets the



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The following 13 beaches were judged Grade A in the Tidy Britain Group's onshore survey, but they also have European Blue Flags – which means they meet the European Union's highest bathing-water

England: Sheringham, Norfolk; Southwold, Suffolk; Sheemess Beach Street and Leysdown Grove Avenue in Kent; Bournemouth, Poole Sandbanks

and Swanage Central in Dorset;

Scotland: St Andrews West Sands: Aberdour Silver Sands. Wales: Pembrey Country Park,

Small holiday firms offer best deals

Glenda Cooper

People are more happy with through small specialist tour largest names are among the worst in delivering customer satisfaction.

According to a survey of 11.500 Consumers' Association members for Holiday Which? the high street giants Airtours, First Choice and Inspirations came bottom of more than 50

tour operators. The small independents Swiss Travel Service and VFB Holidays were the most popular. Value for money was not only about cost, said holidaymakers. They rated some top names, who tend to be cheaper, lower down the league.

Thomson, which owns the companies through which 60 per cent of all package holidays are booked, beat its two main rivals for customer satisfaction. About 48 per cent of its customers would recommend the company, compared to 28 per cent for Lockerbie bombing, many First Choice and 25 per cent for

Airtours. Accommodation was often a source of dissatisfaction; one in 14 readers thought standards could have been better. And while three-quarters who travelled with Swiss Travel Service, P&O Cruises, Style and Hayes & Jarvis were satisfied, less than half were satisfied with Airtours, First Choice, Sunworld, Cosmos and Skytours.

The Butter-Print

By Seamus Heaney

The survey also found that one in seven people were unhappy with their holiday reptheir holidays if they book resentative, and in the worst cases the figure rose to one in five. operators, while some of the One in 25 felt they had been misled by brochures.

For long-haul travel, Virgin Holidays remains the favourite, followed by Travelsphere, Titan HiTours and Kuoni. Airtours. Unijet, First Choice and Thomson trailed.

Patricia Yates, editor of Holiday Which?, said: "These results show again that your choice of tour operator is just as crucial as your choice of resort and you are more likely to get a holiday that matches your expectations if you stick to an independent tour operator."

But Airtours accused Holiday Which? of "applying pop science to holidays". It argued that the people that responded to the survey represented 0.03 per cent of holidaymakers who choose to travel with the

Despite tragedies such as the countries have not introduced legislation requiring screening of all hold baggage on interna-tional flights, said Holiday Which? About 8,000 unaccompanied bags find their way onto international flights every year. The UK, however, is leading the way in airport technology. Ten of the world's 25 CTX5000 screening machines, used to detect plastic explosives, are installed in Manchester Airport.

DAILY POEM

Who carved on the butter-print's round open face

A cross-hatched head of tye, all jags and bristles?

Why should soft butter bear that sharp device

As if its breast were scored with slivered glass?

When I was small I swallowed an awn of rye.

I felt the edge slide and the point suck deep

I nught have been inhaling airs from heaven Where healed and martyred Agatha stares down

At the relic knife as I stared at the awn.

My throat was like standing crop probed by a scythe.

Mr breathing came dawn-cold, so clear and sudden

Lintil, when I coughed and coughed it up,

This poem comes from Seamus Heaney's new volume The Spirit Level (Faber), which appears on the shortlist for the TS Eliot

Prize and is Heaney's first collection for five years. In the

intervening period, he has served as Professor of Poetry at

Oxford and published his lectures there as The Redress of Poetry (Faber). Last year, he won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

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Irish froth as pint-sized brewery tries to put Guinness over a barrel

Alan Murdoch Dublin

A half-pint sized David is challenging the Goliath of Irish brewing with the launch of what will be the city's only Irish-owned brewery, provoca-tively located within sight of Guinness's celebrated St James Gate beadquarters.

The newly-formed Dublin Brewing Company, set up by Finnerty, 34, is reviving a dor-mant tradition. In 1780 there were 33 local brewers operating in the city, a total that fell gradually to just one by the 1990s. Apart from a mini-brewery in a city centre pub, the Republic's only other Irish-owned reweries now are small-scale producers in Kildare and Meath. Guinness, and Cork's Beamish and Murphy's breweries, are foreign-controlled.

The first consignment of Mr Finnerty's challenger to Guinness, a light ale called "Beckett's" (to be abbreviated inevitably to "a pint of Sam") was brewed last month. It received an enthusiastic reception in local pubs and from 70 neighbours invited to a tasting at the new Smithfield brewery, just across the River Liffey from its



Reviving a tradition: Beckett's aims to fill a gap left by Guinness which stopped making light ale at its Dublin factory in 1799

was a middle-aged woman there who assured me 'I'm not a and former head of a London drinker meself. But I'm after having eight pints of that and it went down grand'."

brass company, Mr Finnerty plans to produce other ales, lager and stout. First-year output will see

three 130 keg-brews a week supplying a target of one in 10 Dublin pubs, with export plans thereafter. Current capacity allow up to seven brews, or 910 kegs, weekly. "Even by UK re-

gional standards this is quite a big operation," he says. Beckett's will be introduced

pubs in coming weeks with a full launch in the Spring. Beckett's fills a gap in the market for a type of light ale Guinness stopped making in 1799. Without chemicals or addi-

tives, the new unpasteurised beer is made from roasted mainly-Irish malt, water drawn from the Wicklow mountains, and hops. It is similar to a British real-ale, but filtered to remove cloudiness. Scots-Irish brewer Liam

McKenna, whose family emigrated to Canada when he was four, was involved in several US brewery start-ups, and has moved to Dublin for an initial three years to work with Mr Finnerty. "I'm used to American micro-breweries. Here everyone is incredibly defensive about one or two products, and believe they haven't changed Guinness: Foreign owned

much in years. In fact there has been a gradual change to a taste that doesn't offend any palate." Brewing newcomers must

gradually into selected Dublin

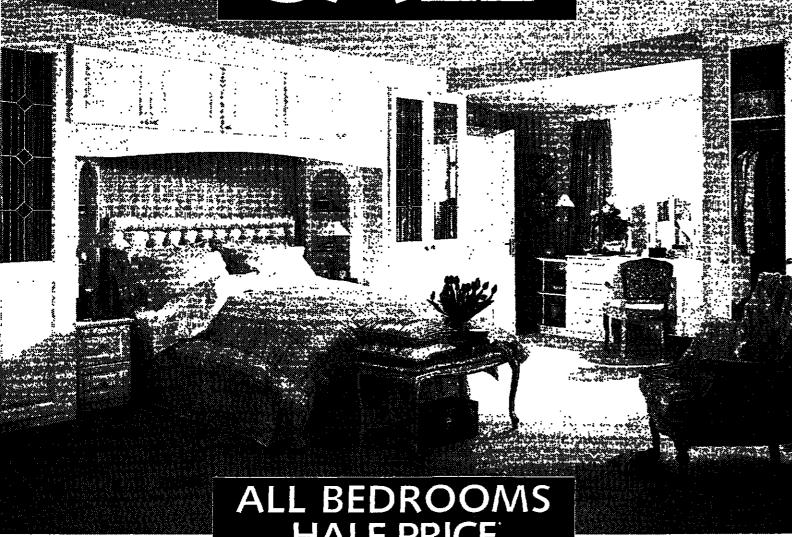
ence for drink in Dublin, captured by writer Daniel Corkery in his 1940s essay "Pintmanship". He maintained: "A true pintman is never boisterous in the presence of his pint; when he condescends to laugh at all. it is with a deep, slow, ruminative. rumbling sound, counterpointed by satisfied internal

gurgling noises."

He advised: "It behoves the pintman then, whenever he enters a strange house, to adopt a critical attitude, and to let everybody concerned see that they are in the presence of a critic. One should approach the counter with an inquisitorial air. trying to look like an inspecto. of something or other.

"When the pint is served to you it should be allowed to rest for a minute on the counter. Then it should be embraced firmly with the fist, raised gently to the lips, and tested. If there is any taint of sourness the barman should be assaulted forthwith.





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with craftsman precision, maximising the storage space available in your bedroom. And with over 200 Sharps showrooms right across the UK there's

Science gentrified by middle-class pupils Lucy Ward While the vast majority of was not feeding through to comprehensives offer only the A-level.

Education Correspondent

The sciences are becoming increasingly middle-class subjects as more private school pupils choose them at A-level and more comprehensive school students give them up, a leadng academic warned yesterday.

The trend is leading to a 'gentrification" of the sciences, reversing their 1960s role as an academic avenue to success for bright working class boys, according to Professor Alan Smithers of Brunel University. Middlesex.

Modern-day youngsters were losing the opportunities which had allowed poorer grammar school boys to shine and created a "generation of distinguished 20th century scientists from working class backgrounds".

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Association for Science Education, Professor Smithers said a difference in the exams taken at 16 in independent and state schools lay behind the change.

'double award" science, which includes physics, biology and chemistry and counts for two GCSE grades, private schools - which do not have to follow the national curriculum and so have more flexible timetables usually also offer the sciences

Figures show students taking separate sciences at GCSE are more likely than those taking the double award to progress to science A-levels, skewing the numbers towards selective schools.

as separate subjects.

The trend has also led to an overall fall in the numbers of A-level students specialising in the sciences, from nearly half in 1962 to less than 17 per cent in

Professor Smithers said the decline had happened despite a dramatic rise in the numbers of pupils studying science up to age 16 over the last 15 years. More investigation was needed to discover why success in raising take-up at GCSE est scientific developments.

One consequence of the dror in numbers of science specialists is a shortage of scientists seeking a career in teaching.

Figures released last month by the Teacher Training Agency revealed an 11 per cent shortfall in the recruitment of science teachers, even though target numbers have been substantially

lowered by the Government. Labour claimed the failure to recruit had created a "ticking time bomb" in the form of a future shortage of qualified teachers in key specialisms,

including science. Professor Smithers suggested the current A-level science courses attracted specialists who loved their subject but "tended not to be personoriented" and were unlikely to

go into teaching. More could be encouraged to enter the profession with incentives such as higher salaries and regular sabbaticals, allowing them to catch up on the lat-

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Call for business-style review of teacher jobs Teachers should be made to known and regularly assessed. It thorities which needed a bigger

undergo business-style performance reviews to drive out incompetent staff, a leading industrialist said yesterday, writes Lucy Ward.

Former Confederation of British Industry president Sir Bryan Nicholson, chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University, urged the education world to adopt tough business disciplines to improve Britain's flagging performance compared with global competitors.

Addressing the North of England Education Conference in Sheffield, Sir Bryan laid out a 10point plan for the next government to achieve by the millennium, including expanding nursery and higher education. Lessons from industry could include more rigorous appraisal of teachers' competence he said. "The rest of society generally opcrates in an environment where

would help restore respect for teachers if they accepted the same disciplines.

However, Sir Bryan, president of the conference, acknowledged the weight of expectation and blame placed on teachers, who had "somehow become scapegoats for many of society's ills". He said: "We need to stop ex-

pecting teachers to do the impossible. They can't cure all the ills of our society – and they can't do it on their own. Schools are not helped by an inspection system which saw a

brief visit by inspectors who found fault and then withdrew. The approach did not raise standards, uncover real problems or find solutions. Sir Bryan called for a review of the in-

spectorate and more help and support for schools. Greater influence should be performance standards are restored to local education au-

role in monitoring and helping schools deliver high standards Another change needed, he said, was the extension of nurscry education to all three- and

four-year-olds. Though the step already has cross-party sup-port, the timetable needed to be "sooner rather than later". And half the school popula-

tion shouldprogress to at least four more years of education after 16. Sir Bryan said. Britain's approach, which has seen higher education expand to include a third of school leavers, was still inadequate to enable the UK to compete, and left a "long tail of underachievement". Britain could no longer afford to be "wedded to higher education as a mausoleum".

Other improvements in Sir Bryan's plan include a class size limit of 35 and a national campaign to establish lifelong learn-

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THE HONG KONG HANDOVER

The colony's last tango dancer



As the countdown begins, Governor

Chris Patten, the 28th and last Governor of Hong Kong is, to put it mildly, in a feisty mood. With only six months to go before he sails out of the colony on the royal yacht Britannia, he has the appearance of a man with nothing to lose and who has a few things that he would like to get off his chest. Some of his critics would say that Mr

Patten has gone out of his way to provoke opposition, especially during the last few

"It's not an argument one can win", he objects. "If you do nothing, you're washing your hands of Hong Kong; if you try
to do it yourself, you're grandstanding. I've
spent half my time in Hong Kong with people accusing Britain, and I suppose me, of
selling out Hong Kong to British commercial interests and the other half dealing with people who say we should have sold out Hong Kong to commercial in-terests. Neither of which is true".

The recent introduction of legislation on subversion, which has taken place right at the end of colonial rule, has excited Chinese fury and a promise by Peking that the new law will be repealed. So, is he merely grandstanding in order to make Britain look good?

Mr Patten insists that Britain tried to epithets that have been thrown his way, mockingly referring to himself as "the tango dancer" or "the triple violator". secure the Chinese government's agreement but could not, and therefore was compelled unilaterally to draft a law that it had pledged to bring onto the statute books. He says that even if the legislation does not survive "we've at least established

a benchmark against which anything else can be judged".

Mr Patten was appointed in 1992 as the last Governor of Hong Kong, just after wining a General Election for the Conservative Party leader John Major but losing his own seat.

The appointment was seen as a rejection of the "old China hands" in the Foreign Office and Cabinet Office who sometimes appeared to be ready to mol-lify Peking at almost any cost.

Although he maintained the colony's executive-led government he outraged both the Chinese government and the busi-ness and professional élite in Hong Kong by giving ordinary people a greater say in the running of the territory. Mr Patten went as far as he could, with

in the bounds set by the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on the future of Hong Kong, to make the 1995 Legislative Coun-cil election the freest in the colony's history.

However, that was too far for China, which has chosen its own provisional council to replace the legislature as soon

as it gains control in July.
It has also ensured that Mr Patten's term as Governor has been punctuated by a constant stream of abuse from China. In fact, he relishes some of the more colourful

But China's hostility has also meant that obstacles have been put in the way of several crucial projects, such as the new airport at Chek Lap Kok.

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Humiliating an obsession with race

Peking

"The Chinese people have stood up and will finally wash away a century of national disgrace." Thus does China anticipate the return of Hong Kong which will purge "a national ten". According to nationalist this century; today references end of the country's "humiliation" by foreign powers. "When China becomes strong, nobody in the world will dare to bully us," a Chinese Communist Party magazine thundered recent-

The image of mainland Chi-na, humbled by foreign powers over 150 years and now reasserting itself, is one which requires constant reminders of past "humiliations" in order to inspire present-day patriotism.

Professor Lucian Pye, a Sinologist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, argues: "It is a xenophobic nationalism, one



Sun Yatsen: 'The greatest force is common blood

lacking higher ideals, principles or visions. The test of nationalism is not just its capacity to mobilise people. Equally important is whether it sets standards that can govern the Outside the mainland,

Chinese nationalism is still be a powerful mobilising force. This was shown in last year's protests in Taiwan and Hong Kong against Japan's claim to the Diaoyu islands. Modern Chinese nationalism

has its roots among the late-19th century reformers who opposed the ruling Manchu dynasty and wished to unite the Chinese people against the foreign pow-ers in China.

It presented an unashamed-ly racial view of what it was to be Chinese. Sun Yatsen, the father of post-imperial China in 1911, wrote in the Three Principles of the People: "The greatest force is common blood. The Chinese belong to the yellow race because they come from the blood stock of the vellow race. The blood of ancestors is transmitted by heredity down through the race, making blood kinship a powerful force."

Frank Dikotter, of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, points out: "Chinese nationalism has been based on ideas of descent. The to "the motherland", an event Yellow Emperor was a significant founding myth in Chinese shame that cannot be forgot- nationalism at the beginning of propaganda. 1997 marks the are more often made to Peking Man and other archaeological findings that are claimed to indicate that the Chinese have separate origins from the rest of

> Mr Dikotter, author of a book on nationalism in China to be published next year, adds: "One does not become Chinese like one becomes Swiss or Dutch, since cultural integration (language) or political adoption (passport) are both excluded as means of becoming 'Chinese'.

> This narrow definition has been keenly felt by Indian and Pakistani families in Hong Kong, many of whom have been resident for generations, but will not qualify for post-1997 Hong Kong passports because they are not ethnic Chinese.

> Éthnicity is entwined with a tendency always to blame foreign countries. Patriotic instruction in China today dwells at length on the wrongs of the 19th century, the "Unequal Treaties" with Britain and the Japanese occupation. As part of the 1 July celebrations this year, a lavish mainland film, The Opium Wars, will have its pre-

miere in China and Hong Kong. China's obsession with historical injustice paradoxi-cally may be linked to the fact that it was never truly colonised, unlike India and Indonesia. Mr Pye explained: "The treaty ports were a Chinese invention to keep the 'barbarian' cooped up. But the humiliation was that the Chinese flocked to the

treaty ports, and prospered."
There is a parallel with Hong Kong, and China's threats against the British to open the border - enabling eager mainlanders to flood into the colony.

"Today you have more talk in

China about the 150 years of foreign humiliation than in India, Indonesia, or Burma, for example. They have all been able to grow out of this, but China is somehow clinging to it," says

The basis for a mature na-tionalism has fallen foul of political upheavals. Mr Pye argues: "You have had 40 years of the Chinese Communist Party denouncing as an abomination all that was great in Chinese civilisation. And now they turn round and wonder, what have we got left? Where are our ideals, where are our values? And there aren't any, except for

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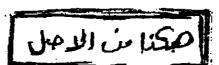
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a sort of racist instinct. Mr Pye has little doubt about China's response if the Hong Kong transition does not go smoothly. "They will have to find scapegoats - and it will be







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prepares to take the final bow

Patten defends Britain's flawed legacy

He believes that most people "found here a refuge which was characterised by the decencies and freedoms of British civil society, and even though only in the last decade has Hong Kong started to see democratic development, it's been for many years one of the freest societies in Asia. Britain has provided the infrastructure within which Chinese entrepreneurial genius and hard work could flower and

So what will he be doing for the next six months? It has been suggested that as a lame-duck head of government, he might as well stay at home and put his feet up. Yet his diary is packed and he seems determined to oversee the completion of his social and educational programmes.

"I have been committed to the issue of the protection of civil liberties and democratic development but I've set out a whole range of other social and economic items on the agenda which I have tried to ensure are implemented. Sometimes, as a consequence, I've been rather curiously described as a Socialist."

Never the less, he is realistic. "It would be ludicrous for me not to recognise that the last six months is the last six months. I mean, people aren't going to be looking to me for reassurance about the future as they are going to be looking to CH," he says, referring to his Peking-designated successor, C H Tung.

The Governor says he gets on well with Mr Tung personally. "We've worked together while disagreeing", he says, refer-

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Aside from the personal relationship, "we're going to have to minimise rather than maximise the difficulties". Among the difficulties is China's establishment of a puppet legislature to rival the existing Legislative Council. "If the provisional legislature is given a great raft of things to do before 1 July 1997, it will be just aggravating a problem deliberately for politi-cal reasons", he asserts, perhaps suggesting that the difficulties will not be inconsid-

Mr Patten will not be offering advice to his successor unless asked. He is very well aware that any hint of endorsement from himself will be taken in Peking as a black mark against Mr Tung. His advice includes the suggestion that "the democrats need to be involved with governing and running Hong Kong". This sort of talk is heresy

in Peking's ruling circles.

And what of his own future? "I find the suggestions, sometimes made, that you can drop in and out of Westminster politics as though the House of Commons was the RAC Club, both politically naive and extremely presumptuous. I don't know whether I want to set my hat at trying to resume a career in party politics and even if I do, I recognise all the problems." Meanwhile he will be retiring to France and writing a book about Asia, "which I've got to get out of my system".

He will be leaving the luxuries of a large staff at Government House to tend his garde, to learn how to use his computer and get that book written. It is hard not

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ring to the time that his successor spent as a member of his cabinet.

Leading article, page 17

Democracy in danger: Police restrain activists outside the inaugural meeting of the selection committee choosing Hong Kong's first Peking-appointed ruler

Question marks hanging over the future

What will happen to the British connection with Hong Kong - will it simply end on 1 July 1997?

No. The government insists that Britain has a residual responsibility, in part as a signatory to the treaty under which Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule and in part because a Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, responsible for transitional issues, will remain in operation until 1 January 2000. What happens to the Queen's

head on stamps and coins? All royal insignia will go: the Queen's head has already gone from new coms. Red letter boxes with the royal crest will be phased out and in will come the Bauhinia symbol, drawn from Hong Kong's national flower. It is a sterile hybrid which produces no seed. What about all the institutions

designated as royal? With the exception of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, all other royal-named bodies, including the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, are rushing to drop the honour like a bad smell.
Will British-related monu-

ments and road names remain? Problematic. The Brits have named almost every road after a British functionary. China has said nothing about changing these names, but in neighbouring Portuguese Macau, China has insisted on the removal of "colonial"

What about the old colonial

buildings?
What old colonial buildings? Commerce has taken its toll on most of them. Chris Patten joked that the Governor's nouse would be turned into a museum of colonialism. At any rate Tung Cheehwa, Mr Patten's successor, does not want to live there.

Will any British armed forces stay in Hong Kong?
The garrison will wind down in the

next few months. The rest will have to be out of the colony immediately after the handover. They will probably be put aboard vessels accompanying HMS Britannia out of Hong Kong.

Will Britons still have the right to visit Hong Kong? Brits will still be allowed in without a visa but will no longer be free to work or study. Like other foreigners they will

have to obtain special permits. What about British passport holders in Hong Kong?
Those of non-Chinese origin will simply be treated as foreigners. Ethnic Chinese holders of UK passports will not

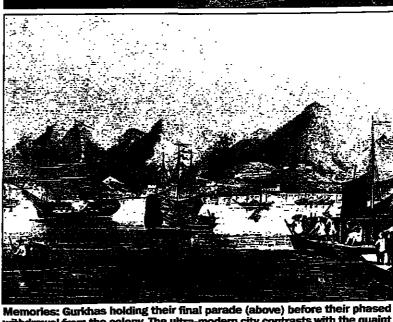
recognised as British citizens by the Chinese government but will be regarded as Chinese citizens. Will there be freedom of speech and of the media? In theory, this is guaranteed under the Basic Law, but senior Chinese officials

have warned there will be no freedom to criticise the Chinese government, advocate independence, or criticise individual leaders.

And the legal system? This, too, is supposed to remain unchanged, right down to the use of wigs and flowing robes. Understandably, the Chinese language will get a bigger airing in the courts. The real problem is the independence of the judiciary. China has reserved the right to have the last say on determining basic constitution-al issues and has limited the autonomy

of the court of final appeal.





withdrawal from the colony. The ultra-modern city contrasts with the quaint port (below) which the British seized from an ailing Chinese dynasty

Hong Kong is an internation-

al centre, with more diplomatic

missions than most Asian coun-

tries. What will happen to them?

British. There is a question-mark over

the Taiwanese representation. Foreign

relations are a matter for the Chinese.

not the Hong Kong government, so everyone has to apply for permission in Peking to remain in Hong Kong.

Can we talk about money?

In Hong Kong, everyone does. In the-

ory, everything will remain as is, with the

Hong Kong government given fully au-

tonomy to make its own decisions on

economic and fiscal policy. In practice

there is plenty of scope for pressure on

the new government and "arrange-

Will English be in widespread

English will remain an official lan-

guage, although it will become less im-

The main language will be ..

the official language, alongside English.

This is tricky because the new masters

regard Chinese as Mandarin (the lan-

guage of Peking), while most of the pop-

The Basic Law states Chinese will be

ments" for the transfer of funds.

portant. It is already in decline.

ulation speak Cantonese.

ase?

Practically all will stay, including the

What role will the Communist Party play?

At the moment it is a clandestine

organisation in Hong Kong, it may go above ground. However the really important question is whether commissars will be assigned to oversee the work of government departments, as in China. As China will be shipping in a reported 4,000 cadres, it seems likely that they will be given something to do. Will the civil service be shak-

en up? China says it wants most senior offi-

cials to stay on. It's the word "most" that causes concern. The assumption is that the service will become highly politicised if a commissar system is introduced. And the elected legislators? They will be kicked out on day one

and replaced by "provisional" legislators, selected by a Chinese approved com-

Will Chinese people be free to come to Hong Kong?

No. They will need special permission, as they do today. China fears an open border would open the flood gates. Hong Kong may fuse more closely with the neighbouring Shenzhen Special Eco-nomic Region, which is also a restricted area for most Chinese.

A lease no one thought would run out

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

Considering that China could have taken Hong Kong back at any time and that Britain has long been a reluctant colonial power in its last major overseas territory, why is the colony reverting to Chinese sovereignty on 1 July 1997?

In formal terms the answer lies in the second Convention of Peking, signed on 9 June 1898. The ailing Qing Dynasty leased the New Territories to Britain for 99 years, starting 1 July 1898. The new additions were to make up 90 per cent of Hong Kong's land mass. The term of 99 years was fixed almost casually. Both sides believed the new lands would remain British for ever, along with the original colonial possession of Hong Kong island, acquired in 1842. The British empire would never die.

The lease was signed in the midst of a flurry of European colonial expansion in China. Britain did not want to be left out, but it was prepared to let China's rulers save face by not insisting the territory should be ecded in perpetuity.

As early as 1909 Governor Sir Frederick Lugard suggested the New Territories be ceded permanently to Britain as a condition for the return of the British concession of Weihaiwei to China. In the event, Weihaiwei was returned to China in 1930, without any of the conditions suggested by Sir Frederick two

decades previously.

When the Qing Dynasty fell and the nationalist government was installed, it declared it would not accept the "un-equal treaties" that gave Hong Kong to Britain. The nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek, with the support of the United States, put pressure on Britain to hand Hong Kong back after the Second World World War but Churchill would

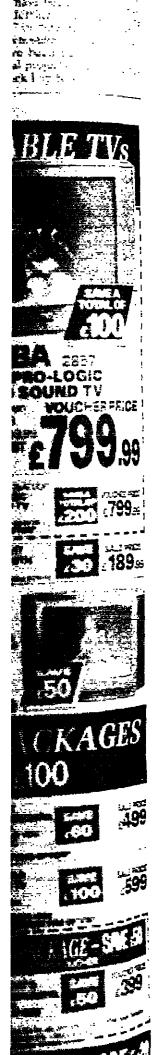
have none of it. After the Chinese Revolution, the leaders in Peking had to deal more pressing husiness than the recovery of Hong Kong. Indeed the territory's existence as a British colony had its uses in providing the Chinese mainland with a win-

dow on the rest of the world. It was not until the mid-1970s that China and Britain started to think about the future of Hong Kong's colonial status. Formally China insisted that it would only take Hong Kong back "when the time is right". It suited China to turn a blind eye to the reality of British sovereignty, while stating that it did not accept the colonial status quo.

It is likely that the Communist Party decided to resume sovereignty following the expiry of the New Territories lease in 1976-7. However the decision was only made known to Britain in March 1979, during a visit to Peking by Sir Murray (now Lord) Maclehose, the Governor. Britain was careful not to let this decision be known and China also kept quiet about it. Some thought had been given to the idea that Britain might maintain its presence in the portion of the colony that was ceded in perpetuity. In the end, Hong Kong without the New Territories was not considered a

By 1982 negotiations for the return of Hong Kong were effectively under way. Two years of tough bargaining followed, leading to the signing of a Sino-British Joint Declaration under which Britain would withdraw from Hong Kong on July 1 1997.

viable option.



Andrew Com

Mile .

Serbian church leaders turn on Milosevic

Andrew Gumbel Beigrade

The Serbian Orthodox Church, once an ardent supporter of President Slobodan Milosevic's nationalist ambitions in the Balkans, yesterday added its voice to the groundswell of public opinion turning against the government with a withering attack on what it called a "Communist, Godless and Satanic" regime.
An unambiguous statement

of support for the anti-government protests, now into their eighth week, was read out at the regular afternoon opposition rally in central Belgrade to a

rapturous reception.
"He [Milosevic] has already

set up against the whole world and now he wants to pit us against each other and trigger bloodshed in order to preserve power," said the statement, was drawn up by the Church's governing Synod at an emergency session earlier in the day and signed by Patriarch Pavle.

The Church has had its share of problems with Mr Milosevic because his government refused to return property con-fiscated by Tito's Communists in 1945 and failed to encourage the growth of religious schools. But in the run-up to the 1991-95 war it threw its weight behind Mr Milosevic's expansionist ambitions, seeing the dream of a Greater Serbia as an opportunity for an Orthodox revival.

Yesterday's statement was still nationalist in tone, accusing Mr Milosevic of betraying Serbs in Bosnia and the Krajina region now reconquered by Croatia. But it was a significant indication of the way in which public opinion is moving away from Mr Milosevic. In recent days, scores of judges, univer-sity professors and other prominent officials have come out openly in favour of the anti-gov-

ernment protests. On New Year's Day, the Writers' Union, which initially applauded Mr Milosevic in the 1980s, issued a fierce attack saying the president was the "enemy of Serbia". The union has



Man of the people: Serb opposition leader Vuk Draskovic surrounded by supporters at anti-government rally in Belgrade

emy of Serbia". The union has revived its famous "protest again turned up yesterday to rerevived its famous "protest again turned up yesterday to re-evenings" - originally estab-peat the demands they have city councils across the country. lice a few streets away from

lished to bring together dissi-dents of Tito's regime.

On the streets of Belgrade,

On the streets of Belgrade,

Although the numbers were relatively modest, partly because of the bitter ice and cold and partly because of a men-

rallies and protesters was in-fused with a new spirit of optimism. Opposition political parties hoped that Mr Milosevic was on the verge of accepting the results of an inquiry by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) into the local elections and grant the opposition the victories it has been claiming. Mr Milosevic had been due to re-

> today or on Monday. He has shrouded himself in silence in recent days, permit- ing through brightly coloured ting no reference to the demonstrations either in his own communiqués or on state me-dia. His New Year message to the nation referred only to his
>
> netic, wildly energetic gypsy music from *Underground*, Emir Kusturica's prize-winning film

spond to the OSCE survey by yesterday, but it is now be-lieved he will make a statement

Republic Square, the focus of economy in an effort to pull the country out of a deep slump ex-acerbated by war and fourand-a-half years of international sanctions that have yet to be completely lifted.
While Mr Milosevic's mes-

sage was broadcast, hundreds of thousands of Belgraders thronged into the streets in their hundreds of thousands an unmistakable political statement despite the overtly festive motive for the gathering. Yesterday, the atmosphere remained good-humoured, with

demonstrators cheering, setting off firecrackers and blowparty whistles, while loudspeakers blasted out the freintention of liberalising the about the wars in Yugoslavia.

Muslim and Serb homes torched

Sarajevo (Reuter) — Nato reported yesterday that at least a had damaged a house in the vildozen houses formerly inhabited by Bosnian Muslims or Serbs were destroyed over the past week in a Croat-held area near Mostar.

The attacks were clearly controlled western Mostar over aimed at discouraging non-Croat refugees from returning to settlements south of Mostar, buman rights workers said.

Five houses once inhabited by Muslims were destroyed in Stolac on Sunday night and another house was torched on Monday, said Major Tony White, spokesman for the Nato-led peace force.

Kukavac were also destroyed on have failed to put a stop to the Sunday, two homes belonging expulsions despite repeated to Serbs were razed in Stolac at pleas from Western diplomats.

lage of Prebilovci on Monday, Major White said.

The reports coincide with an alarming rise in expulsions of Muslims from Croatthe past three months. Groups of armed men have

been systematically evicting the remaining Muslims from western Mostar and seizing their flats, according to United Nations relief workers and international police monitors. Mostar is strictly divided into

Croat and Muslim sectors since a 10-mouth Muslim-Croat war Three houses in nearby ended in 1994. Croat authorities

Huge losses in Albania savings fraud

Almost everybody in Albania has queued up in recent months, in the hope of gaining a share of the goodies. Now, however, huge numbers - one in seven families, according to some estimates – face financial ruin, pending the collapse of the country's plethora of pyramidsavings scams.

Already one company is on the verge of collapse, with thousands of desperate people be-sieging its office in central Tirana and demanding their promised interest returns. When no payouts were forthcoming, angry crowds smashed the windows of the company's office before they were dispersed by police.

Albania has been in the grip of investment fever, with companies borrowing money from people and paying them extra-ordinary high monthly interest rates, ranging from 8 per cent to a literally unbelievable 35 per cent. The pyramid schemes rely on a stream of new deposits to pay out interest on the old ones, and this requires an ever-

increasing flow of cash. The World Bank and the IMF have called on the government to exert strict control over the pyramid schemes. Meanwhile, however, almost every Albanian family has invested some money in one pyramid scheme or another. Over the last few months, gullible investors have queued from the early hours of the morning to deposit their savings. Many have even sold their homes to invest as large a sum as possible.

The schemes are a powerful magnet, providing a glimmer of hope in a country with an average monthly wage of only £55 and high unemployment.

"It is worth taking the risk," said one stallholder, Arben Shekriu, whose brother has sold his flat and moved his family back into the parental home. "We will all be able to share the money earned from my brother's deposit," he said hopefully.
In the centre of Tirana, the

office of Vefa Holdings, the largest and most powerful of the money-lending schemes, shoots beams of white light over the rooftops, a symbol of the brash new capitalism pervading Albania's post-communist society. Vefa, which is thought to have attracted around £50m, offers investors monthly interest rates of 8 per cent on six-month deposits.

Interest rates jumped sharply following a statement by the Finance Minister, Ridvan Bode. warning of the potential cata-strophe facing Albania should the schemes collapse. He cast doubt on the ability of the pyramid firms to return the sums deposited with them and to continue to pay out such high interest rates.

The statement, however, only fuelled the various schemes' competitiveness, and several firms immediately increased their interest rates. One firm reduced the permitted withdrawal period from seven to three months and trebled the rate of return, another amounced that all deposits lodged with it would earn 32 per cent in just 55 days.

Despite growing speculation that these money schemes will not be able to pay out to savers. Albanians continue to stand patiently, awaiting their turn to lodge their precious savings.

"We are like lambs to the slaughter," said economic analyst Albert Marku, despondently watching yet another

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Doctors warned against arming Arabs' attacker

Eric Silver Jerusalem

The Israeli army conscripted Noam

Friedman, the religious soldier who shot seven Arabs in Hebron on Wednesday, despite a written warning from psychiatrists in his home town that he should not be trusted with a gun.

The religious newspaper, Yom Hashishi, yesterday published extracts from a letter sent to the draft board by his local education office in May 1995.

"It should be considered seriously whether to draft this man. his counsellors wrote, "and especially whether to place a weapon in his hands." Friedman was reported to have boasted afterwards that he had tricked the army into taking him. "Now," the paper quoed him as saying, "they will give ne i weapon to shoot Arabs.

Fiedman, 19, was remanded in cust dy vesterday. Police also chared a second soldier, Yuval Jibli, 1, with complicity in the shoong. Friedman told the court that h had wanted to show that the Prim Minister, Benjamin Netanyau, did not represent the Israeli people. He said he felt compiled to act to stop the gov-

ernment handing over most of Hebron to the Palestinians.

Unlike Yigal Amir, who assassi-nated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and the Hebron mosque killer Baruch Goldstein, Friedman has been repudiated even by the Israeli right. He was too much of a loner,

too obviously a psychiatric case.
"I don't expect him to become
a cultural hero," Ehud Sprinzak, a Hebrew University expert on Israel's radical right, said. "There is a consensus within the settlements that he damaged their cause."

None the less, commentators pinned some of the responsibility on the religious right. Even if the man acted on his own," wrote

Bomb was Israeli'

Damascus (Agencies) - Syria said Israeli agents planted a bomb on a bus in Damascus on New Year's Eve, killing nine people and wounding others.

At least 40 people were tak-en to hospital. The attack followed attacks on Syrians in Lebanon, where right-wing Christians strongly oppose Syrian control over their governNahum Barnea in the mass-circulation Yediot Aharonot, "without orders from rabbis or politicians, the extreme right cannot be exempt from blame. In all sectors of this country, there are lunatics, but in only one sector do they turn weapons into a tool of politics."

The final negotiations for a He-bron redeployment were marking time last night. The Israeli Defence Minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, and Yasser Arafat's deputy, Mahmoud Abbas, met until 3am yesterday, but failed to reach a consensus that would enable Mr Netanyahu and the Palestinian leader to meet and initial an agreement. It will probably have to wait over the weekend.

The main difference is over the timetable for further Israeli withdrawals - from West Bank rural areas - once the Hebron pull-out is completed. The Palestinians want Israel to keep to the original schedule, under which the evacuations were supposed to have started last September and finished in September 1997. Israel contends that the clock should restart from where it was stopped by last year's Islamist suicide bombings.

David Bar-Illan, Mr Ne-



حكام الامل

Old enmity: An elderly Palestinian argues with Rabbi Moshe Levinger, one of the most prominent Jewish settlers in Hebron, in the

Delays that made history repeat itself in West Bank

It he happened before. Two vearago, Baruch Goldstein, an arm reserve captain from the Israli settlement at Kiryat Arboverlooking Hebron killed 29 Idestinians as they prayed in thal-Ibrahimi mosque in the cityThis week, Noam Friedma: another West Bank settler serng in the army, opened fire in lebron's vegetable market 300 ards from where Goldstein caned out his massacre.

he Oslo Accord, purported an agreement designed to mee peace between Israelis an Palestinians, made such aucities inevitable. It left more tha 100,000 settlers in place on th West Bank, the hard core of whin said from the beginning the they would do everything try could to prevent Israeli whdrawal from any part of wat they regarded as the land Od gave to the Jews.

Oslo also encouraged attacks beause it envisaged a long me-frame for its implemenuion - six years from its signig in 1993 to the end of final atus negotiations in 1999. The istification for this was that restance to such radical change ould be less if it took place in ages. In practice, it gave plenof time for opponents of Oslo, oth Israeli and Palestinian, to lerail it by bomb or bullet. The nine months' delay in the



29Palestinians at prayer

imlementation of the so-called intrim agreement or Oslo II siged by Yasser Arafat, the Prestinian leader, and the previus Israeli government last yer, has been portrayed as being largely about the Israeli whdrawal from Hebron. This he not happened by accident. Netanyahu wants to focus o the withdrawal, which is reav a partition of the city, and nt on the rest of the interim areement, which would see an ed to Israeli predominance on

të West Bank. The redeployment of Israeli pops in Hebron alone will not unsform the balance of powon the West Bank. This will hopen only when Israel carries of its three-stage withdrawal om rural areas as it is pledged do under Oslo II. It is this hich Mr Netanyahu has been

Ambiguities in the Oslo Accord have allowed extremists to flourish, writes

Jerusalem, is 1.3 million. Of these, around 300,000 passed from Israeli security control when its forces withdrew from six towns at the end of 1995.

An Israeli redeployment in Hebron will mean a further 100,000 Palestinians will gain autonomy. The real change comes when Israeli forces withdraw from the Palestinian villages in rural areas where a further 900,000 Palestinians live. Under Oslo II this was meant to occur over 18 months. starting earlier this year. Until this happens, Israel will still be in a position to isolate each of the autonomous towns, creating the cantons Palestinians have

always feared. Professor Khalil Shikaki, a leading Palestinian political scientist, says: "Following the three further redevioyments, the Israelis should be out of every part of the West Bank except Jerusalem as defined by its municipal boundaries, settlements as defined by their cur-rent areas and specific military locations". In other words, around 85 to 90 per cent of the West Bank would be in Palestimian hands. The interim agreement also opens up a right of passage between the 800,000 Palestinians in Gaza and those of the West Bank.

The addition of Hebron to the six other autonomous towns is important for Palestinians but not the central reason why they signed the interim agreement. The economic life of each can be strangled by an internal closure by Israel, which often means no more than putting checkpoints on the main access roads. The Palestinians also fear that if Mr Netanyahu persuades the US and the rest of the world that he has made major concessions over Hebron, international pressure on Israel to implement Oslo will relax.

Not everything can be

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blamed on Mr Netanyahu and his government. Mr Řabin was ambivalent about what Oslo really meant. He signed an agreement withdrawing Israeli troops from populated areas, but at the same time pushed ahead with the construction of a system of "by-pass" roads, designed to rivet the West Bank more closely to Israel. The ambiguities in Oslo, designed to marginalise opposition, ended up offending everyone. The settlers saw an end to their dreams of taking over the Biblical land of Israel Palestinians found themselves forced into impoverished ghettos. In a world of disappointed



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Fujimori plans assault to free Lima hostages

Phil Davison Lima

The Peruvian President, Alberto Fujimori, furious over daily propaganda coups by Marxist guerrillas occupying the Japanese ambassador's residence, is said to be studying detailed plans to attack the building in an effort to free 74

remaining hostages.
Sources close to the President said he had received advice from the United States and other foreign military advisers on how best to carry out an assault. But the sources stressed that an assault was "only one option, a serious one but the President is still hoping for a peaceful solution".

Peruvian commandos have been practising an assault on a mock-up of the Japanese diplomatic compound at a secret location, the sources said. They said an assault would probably last only three minutes if successful but that casualties among the hostages would be

In only his second statement since the crisis began on 17 December, Mr Fujimori yesterday described the hostage drama as an isolated incident and sought to soothe investors' concerns. Showing no sign of backing down on the guerrillas' de-mands for the release of 400 jailed comrades, he again described the guerrillas as "terrorists", something they have angrily denied.

The 20 or so guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru RevolutionMovement (MRTA) freed a further seven hostages on new year's day, leaving them with 74 captives including the President's brother Pedro, cabinet ministers, senior police and military officers, congressmen, two am-



Fujimori: Angry at rebels'

bassadors and Peruvian and Japanese businessmen.

The freed men were four Japanese businessmen and three Peruvian government officials, including Juan Assereto. a key adviser to the President on privatising state industries.

The seven walked out with one of Peru's leading Catholic churchmen, Bishop Juan Luis Cipriani of Ayacucho, Although he has said his visits to the building were pastoral, he appears to have won the release of many of the nearly 500 hostages freed over the past two weeks.

Despite the latest release, there was no sign of an early end to the 16-day-old occupation which began when the rebels stormed a diplomatic cocktail party. The MRTA yesterday issued a statement saying the ball was now in Mr Fujimori's court.

"We call on all the progres-sive men and women of the world to keep demanding that the Peruvian government come to a peaceful solution that will lead to the freedom of the political prisoners and the prisoners of war [the hostages] taken by our commando unit," said the statement, datelined "somewhere in the central jungle".

Now it is the Peruvian gov-

ernment's turn to speak."
Mr Fujimori was said to have been particularly angered by an impromptu press conference given by MRIA leader, Nestor Cerpa, inside the building on new year's eve.

A group of reporters had been allowed through police cordons to film the door of the residence when a Japanese photographer broke from the group and approached the building holding up a sign saying "Kyodo", the name of his Japanese

news agency.
The other journalists followed and Cerpa, his face covered by a bandanna, held a news conference, haranguing Mr Fuimori's "dictatorship".



significant shorts

US to put up barriers to **BSE**

The United States is set to announce steps to guard BSE, or mad-cow disease, amongst its cattle herds.

In the next few days, the Food and Drug Administration is expected to issue a ban on the recycling of waste protein from cows, sheep and other ruminants into animal feed. Scientists believe that madcow disease was first allowed to spread when remains of sheep infected with scrapie. a disease closely related to

BSE, was fed to cattle. The US has so far escaped the disease which has led to the mass slaughter of Britain's herds. There has been a US ban on imports of British beef since 1985 and on live cattle imports from Britain since 1989. David Usborne – New York

Spies put to

Libya yesterday executed six senior officers and two civilians convicted of spying using equipment supplied by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Libyan

state-run radio reported. Reporting the convictions by Libya's Supreme Military Court on Wednesday, the state-controlled Libyan television said: "The agentspies ... supplied agents of foreign governments with information relating to the country's defence secrets, for espionage purposes, by exploiting their membership of the Libyan army. AP/Reuters - Cairo

Alone in a lift on NY Eve

No one likes to be alone on New Year's eve, or on New Year's day, and especially if they are stuck in an elevator. Hui Chow-fong, a meter reader for Hongkong Electric Holdings Ltd, spent the The thief left only the holidays alone in a lift where he was trapped for more than 40 hours before being found yesterday. The 36-year-old got stuck on Tuesday afternoon in a lift of an office Jesus. "Looks like someone

break. Reuters - Hong Kong

Gingrich to keep job after ethics probe

Newt Gingrich will be able to retain his powerful following a probe of his ethics, sources close to the investigation said.

The House ethics subcommittee recommended that Mr Gingrich, a Republican, be given a reprimand, rather than the more serious punishment. censure, which would have cost him his job as Speaker of the House of

Representatives. The decision means that Gingrich can stay at his post, one of the most influential legislative jobs in Washington.
The investigation focused

on Gingrich's involvement with a tax-exempt organization which he set up to finance a college course. The course was videotaped and distributed as a recruiting aid. AP - Washington

death in Libya Glacier threat in Alps

Experts are monitoring a huge glacier in Italy's western Alps amid fears that a huge section could drop onto an inhabited valley, authorities said.

The Rome daily La Repubblica, citing unidentified experts, reported that a block of about 30,000 cubic metres of ice and snow may break free within a month from the Grandes Jorasses glacier on the Mount Blanc range. The collapse could threaten the village of Planpinceux and hotels in the Ferret valley. AP - Courmayeur, Italy

Away from a

manger A thief stole a sheep from a Christmas nativity crib in the

sheep's head, feet and entrails but did not touch three other sheep and the plaster statues of Joseph, the Virgin Mary and the infant building. The building was then closed for the New Year who wanted a New Year's Eve meal," Ghent police who wanted a New Year's said. Reuters - Brussels





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6 Voters have rejected Westernstyle democracy and freedoms in a watershed election. They would win big or lose big depending on whether or not they voted for us





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Singapore's ruling party tightens its grip on power

Following the most savage election campaign in Singapore's history the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) has retained its stranglehold on political power by winning 81 of the 83 seats in parliament after yesterday's poll.

The opposition parties also lost ground in terms of the overall popular vote, gaining around a third of the total, compared with the 39 per cent they won in the 1991 election.

However, under Singapore's unique electoral system winning this proportion of the vote yielded only two parliamentary eats for opposition parties.

In the course of the nine-day campaign the opposition generated far more excitement than the ruling party by holding monster rallies around the island. Candidates also reported an unusually high level of public positive response when campaigning door to door.

Economic threats and electoral system ensure PAP wins island state's poll, writes Stephen Vines

The campaign was dominated by savage attacks on one of the leading opposition politicians, the 61-year-old lawyer Tang Liang Hong, who the PAP accused of being a "Chinese chauvinist". More significantly, however, the ruling party made it clear that those voting for the opposition would pay a high price for not supporting the government. Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong threatened that his party would examine the election results precinct by precinct to identify where voters failed

حكنا س الاعل

He said that the government would follow a "winner takes all principle, meaning that those who supported the gov-

to support the PAP.

lic services, while opposition areas would be left at the end of the queue, Mr Goh explained this as meaning that voters would "win big or lose big", de-

voted for the ruling party.

Although the PAP fought the election as though it were fighting for its political life, it won the election before it began because the opposition contested only a minority of

pending on whether or not they

The ruling party made it clear that it saw no role for opposition members in parliament. "Opposition politicians are not what you call deep politicians," said Lee Kwan Yew, the grand old man of Sin-

perficial ones." The PAP repeatedly described this election as a "watershed".

Last night Mr Goh said he was satisfied with the result because the voters "have rejected Western-style democracy and freedoms".

The election reduced the opposition from four members to two. They will have a difficult job representing the country's entire opposition in the face of an increasingly aggressive ruling party, showing few signs of looking for compromises.

The PAP will be particularly pleased to have defeated Chee Soon Juan, one of its most articulate critics in parliament.

enduring opposition leader. However the biggest prize was the defeat of Tang Liang Hong. The PAP said it was justified in launching an onslaught on Mr Tang because he threatened to upset the delicate racial balance in the country, a charge he vigorously denied, saying that he had become the focus of the government's ire because he spoke for the mass of the people excluded from the political

Shortly before the poll Mr Goh said that his personal standing and that of his two deputies were at stake should Mr Tang win. In the event he has strengthened his position against some internal party

The PAP has won all eight elections held since independence in 1965. Its political dom-It also took the scalp of JB inance is heavily fortified by

Chechen court applies Islamic law

Grozny (AP) — A recently established Islamic court in Chechnya has ordered a man to pay 63 camels to the relatives of a person he killed in a traffic

Muslim separatists in effect control Chechnya after a 20-month war with Russian troops, and they have set up new courts based on their interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia.

In one of the first verdicts, three judges yesterday convicted Ali Khasiev of killing Yusup Akbulatov in a traffic accident and ordered him to pay 63 camels to Akbulatov's rela-

There is only one problem: there are no camels in Chechnya. As an alternative, Khasiev was ordered to pay \$63,000 (£38,000) to Akbulatov's family. The judges later reduced it to 2m roubles (about £210) when the defendant said it would be impossible for anyone in the war-battered republic to raise \$63,000.

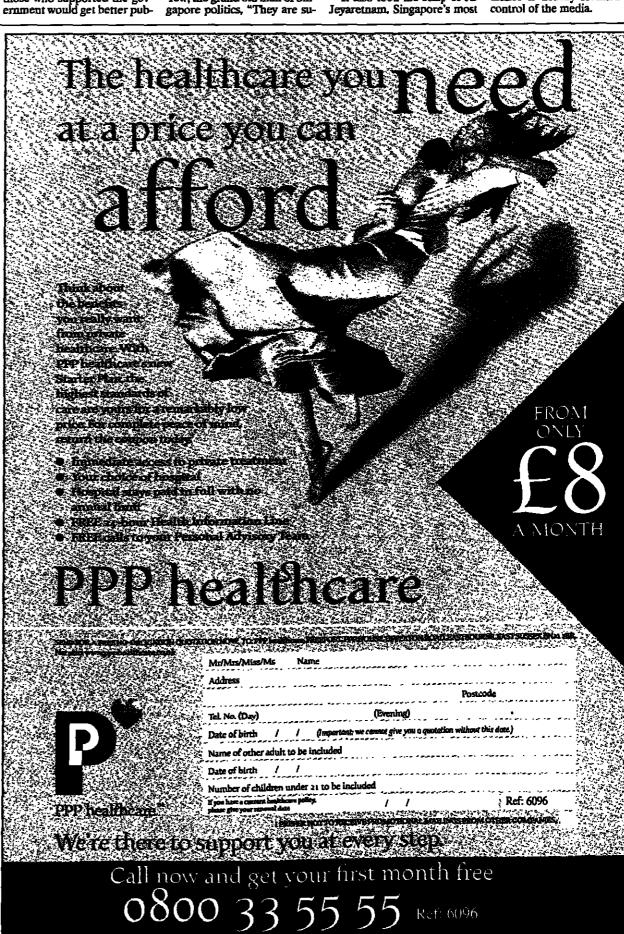
The judges based the original award on a formula that equates one camel to two bulls, which Chechnya does have. A bull is worth about \$500 in Chechnya.

Under some interpretations of Islamic law, people convicted of crimes are ordered to pay compensation to the family of the victim.

The Sharia judges had a two-month course in Islamic law by a Jordanian-born Chechen who spent eight years in Afghanistan. Sharia courts are presently operating alongside traditional Russian courts in Chechnya.

The presidential and parliamentary elections set for 27 January are virtually certain to bring to power Muslim separatists expected to favour Islamic traditions over Russian

The local election commis sion yesterday registered 19 candidates for the presidential race. The candidates will be required to take an oath later this week, swearing their allegiance to the idea of an independent



-- 4210-44

Gordon Williams

To have created a single, united catalogue of the world's greatest research library system is such an achievement as to give its architect permanent fame. Yet such was Gordon Williams's modesty that his death more than three months ago passed almost unnoticed by the outside world. His monument, the Na-tional Union Catalog, is to be found in every major library in the world, still in the massive bank of green folio volumes in which it originally appeared; it now awaits the electronic form that he foretold for it.

From 1959 to 1980 Williams was director of the Center for Research Libraries at Chicago, the home of the American Library Association (ALA), and it was in that capacity that he oversaw the realisation of a dream that went back to the beginning of the century. In 1901, in his annual report to Congress, its great librarian, Herbert Putnam, wrote: "It is fully recoguised by the Library of Congress that next in importance to . . . its own resources comes the ability to supply information as to the resources of other

Towards this he added the hope "to receive a copy of every [catalogue] card printed by the New York Public Library" and all the other major reference libraries in the country. This had grown by 1926 to two million records, but it was of limited value: its use was restricted to Washington, and as one record for each book was deemed sufficient it gave no idea of the national availability of copies. A Rockefeller grant in 1927-32 redeemed the balance, quadrupling the number of records, but even by the 1950s a quarter of the requests for books failed because a copy

could not be located. By then the need was sufficiently urgent for the ALA to approach the Library of Congress with the proposal that copies of its members' cards should be incorporated comprehensively in what had come to be called the National Union Catalog (NUC). One hundred and three thousand records were added in 1956, trebling the next year. The next step was publication, and in 1961 a trial volume, covering the records of 500 libraries for 1952-55, was published. The reception it got showed the need for a complete catalogue, then estimated at 32 million records - an underestimate, as it proved.

Brown in mind when he wrote

Educated at Ayr Academy,

and Edinburgh University, Bill

Brown was a natural public

servant who worked all his life

in commercial television; and he

died shortly after retiring as

Chairman of Scottish Television

and Chairman of the Scottish

Arts Council. He was as honest

He joined Scottish Television,

as London sales manager, a year

after the station went on air in

1957. He became managing di-

rector in 1966 and remained in

charge till 1990, the longest serv-

ing chief executive in Indepen-

dent Television. When he

joined, Scottish Television

(STV) was in the hands of Roy

Thomson, who had discovered

in radio stations in North Amer-

ica that maximising revenue

(advertising) and minimising

cost (programmes) was a sure

way to a fortune. Thomson in-

stantly spotted that, since STV

was then prevented by the ITV

system from making pro-grammes and was forced by the

big contractors to take the cen-

tral supply, the formula would

work here too. His franchise, he

unguardedly admitted, was "a

licence to print money". He had

to go, and went on to own the

Times and the Sunday Times

By the time Bill Brown re-

tired as managing director, STV

bad built on a sure financial

foundation and expanded, as

ITV bowed to the pressures that

insisted that programme

a man as ever lived.



The British Museum Library had already undertaken the publication of its complete catalogue, an operation made possible by the development of a novel camera which converted the printed slips pasted into the catalogue volumes, familiar to users of the Reading Room, into continuous and correctly alphabetised sequences of film. It appeared in 263 volumes between 1963 and 1968 and took the scholarly world by storm. It was to provide a precedent for solving the problems of publishing the NUC.

Vast though the British Museum catalogue was, NUC was three times larger. Further, its content came not from one but bundreds of different libraries, whose records, even of the same book, could differ radically. Finally, due to the length of time it must take to produce, provision had to be made for possible changes, known or unknown. Chief of these was the onset of computer-based cataloguing.
In the event, NUC was pro-

duced in printed form. It was accepted, on grounds of cost and, at the time, technical uncertainty, that whatever might happen in the US libraries, elsewhere would not be so advanced. It was well that the catalogue came out in book form, though not for the reason foreseen: in the event it was the non-US libraries, who subscribed for a surprisingly high proportion of the copies printed, that kept

the project affoat. The first volume came out in 1968; the rest followed at the rate of five a month every year up to the 754th and last. The whole cost of capitalising this vast venture fell on the English printing firm who had been responsible for the British Museum catalogue. Not a cent of demic affiliation, had only

"Auld Ayr, wham ne'er a toon arrangements should reflect re- take action in the High Court.

est role - Taggart, Take the High

Road ~ in programme supply to

the network. In this evolution,

Brown's wise and careful coun-

sel counted for much. He twice

served as chairman of ITV's fed-

eration, always held in high re-

gard there by his colleagues. His

insistence on public obligation.

and his known integrity and fair-ness, ensured that STV kept its

franchise at every competitive

round, including the last, when

a challenge at auction to the in-

cumbent failed to materialise.

No one of substance was pre-

pared to set themselves up

the heather on fire, defying the Sassenach network. But he

fought his corner well. Today,

ITV has reverted to a central

control of scheduling more dra-

conian even than in the earliest days, and ownership is concen-

trated in even fewer hands.

STV, so far, survives as a healthy

round coming up, Brown com-

missioned a major film on a

difficult subject from an inex-

perienced independent pro-

ducer - myself. A Sense of

Freedom dealt with the harsh

prison experience of a violent

criminal, explicit in detail,

Glasgow-demotic in speech.

This was not the safe and ob-

vious route to franchise re-

newal. Yet Brown backed it, and

its makers, all the way, even go-

ing so far - when Glasgow City

Council, jealous of the city's im-

age, became obstructive – as to

In 1979, with a franchise

independent entity.

Under Brown STV never set

against him.

surpasses / For honest men gional structure. The company

." Burns had the likes of Bill now played a consistent if mod-

Sir William Brown

US government or foundation money went to support the huge editorial and production costs involved, despite every

That all this was brought to fruition was due to one man. Gordon Williams. Although officially it was the responsibility of a sub-committee of the ALA, made up of librarians, the translation of its decisions into action was his responsibility. It was an administrative problem of gigantic proportions; Williams dealt with it, calmly and without fuss, as if it was the most normal thing in the world. He gave whole-hearted and informed support to the publica-tion and ensured that all the potential dangers of transatlantic collaboration were avoided. Rarely can so large an undertaking have been ach-

in 1980, it was virtually complete. Williams was born in Oregon in 1914, and he remained by sympathy and choice a westcoast man. Times were hard in his youth, and school and later university (he went to Stanford) were only compassed by working in his spare time and vacations. Books were in his blood, and bookselling provided a livelihood.

ieved with such efficiency and

harmony. By the time he retired

The Second World War took him to active service in the Pacific; he became an expert navigator, and the tinnitus he suffered from in later life came from being too close to heavy naval artillery. He returned in 1945 to become vice-president of the international bookselling firm Brentano's in California, which involved managing their Los Angeles shop. He also spent some time in Sacramento, where his long-standing interest in the stage found an outlet: after hours, he spent his time producing and stage-

managing plays.
In 1952 he became chief assistant librarian at the University of California at Los Angeles, joining the powerful team built up by Lawrence Clark Powell, already a legendary figure. This prepared him well for the move to Chicago in 1959. There the National Union Catalog was by no means his only concern. As Director of the still new Center for Research Libraries, he faced challenge in all directions. The special needs of university and other research libraries, notably those independent of aca-

Bill Brown listened; his calm po-

lite manner dressed an inner

firmness. When he saw his way

clear ahead, and made his mind

served as one of ITV's quasi-

representative directors on the board of the awkward fledgling Channel 4. While some in ITV

muttered imprecations and

made difficulties, Brown and his

colleagues offered unqualified

support. His passion was golf, for

which "ye maun hae a heid"; but

Bill Brown was fond also of the

arts, and a keen supporter of

Scottish Opera at the Theatre

Royal, next door to STV's stu-

dios. In his retirement he took

on the thankless task of chair-

ing the Scottish Arts Council,

attempting to reconcile con-flicting claims for adequate

shares of inadequate bounty. He

never complained, but war "ad

to get out in one piece.

In the early 1980s, Brown

up, he stuck to it.

begun to arise as the full impact of the federal investment in higher education made itself

The problems of sudden growth, from acquisition poli-cy to buildings, above all the need to create a new cadre of properly trained staff, came to Williams. He was an early exponent of the need for a conservation policy, and a founder member of the International Institute of Conservation. In all this, he was largely responsible for the creation of a united front among libraries in America, and his influence, if unseen, was as marked in Britain. But Williams was very much

more than the librarians' librarian. Some flavour of his personality comes in his valedictory address in 1980 on "library cooperation" which, he said, suffered from its good name: "if it were regarded as just a bit sinful, librarians might indulge in it more than they do". Reflect-ing further on the impact of the expansion of higher learning, he

Among the still further consequences, aside from the undesirable ones, such as pollution and rapid destruction of the natural environment, multinational corporations, the atomic bomb, TV dinners, cellophane wrapped bread and elecronic music, were an exponentia increase in the number of new publications and in the need for more

All this he faced without compromise, but he got much enjoyment from life, and gave it too. Somehow he found time to write, too: a book, Ravens and Crows, appeared in 1966 and two years later he edited the first edition of Thomas Bewick's memorable letters to John Dovaston.

Williams retired to Napa in California, delighting his re-tirement by printing little books on a hand-press, notably his old friend Will Chency's treatise On Pocket-knives. He also took a well-informed interest in the local product, and was a founder member of the board of directors of the Napa Valley Wine Library, a remarkable collection in an outstandingly handsome building, for which he took none of the credit he

Nicolas Barker

Gordon Roland Williams, librarian: born Ontario, Oregon 26 July 1914; married 1942 Jane Smith (one daughter); died Napa, California 15 September 1996.

Brown held honorary doc-

torates from Strathclyde and

Edinburgh. He was appointed

CBE in 1971, awarded by the

Royal Television Society in 1984

their highest honour, the Gold

Medal for Outstanding Services to Television and, last

year, knighted - in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Seeing

his name in the paper with

mine. I sent him the obvious one

word letter: "Snap!" Not long

nosed. Prince Philip went out of

his way to hold an investiture for

him in Glaseow City Chambers.

strong and lively Canadian wife

Nancy, and his three daughters

and son, and was cherished

and supported by them. He will

William Brown, television exec-

utive: born 24 June 1929; Lon-

don sales manager, Scottish Television Ltd 1958-61, sales di-

rector 1961-63, deputy managing

director 1963-66, managing di-

rector 1966-90, deputy chair-man 1974-91; CBE 1971;

director, ITN 1972-77; director,

Scottish Opera Theatre Royal

1974-91; chairman, Council, In-

dependent Television Compa-

nies Association 1978-80:

director, Channel Four Co 1980-

84; chairman, Scottish Amicable

Life Assurance Society 1989-94;

chairman, Scottish Television plc 1991-96; trustee, National

chairman, Ścottish Arts Council

1992-96; Kt 1996; married 1955

Nancy Hunter (one son, three daughters); died 29 December 1996.

Jeremy Isaacs

be more widely missed.

Bill Brown took pride in his

after, a brain tumour was diag-



'Why her?' An ex-councillor, columnist and magazine contributor. Alma Birk went to the Lords in 1967

Baroness Birk

Whenever the date approaches for the nominations of new life peers there is some anxiety in the upper house about their new companions. And when the names are announced of this most distinguished of quangoes there is muttering in the Bishops' Bar and even in the Library. "Why him? Why her?" There were no such queries when Alma Birk was elevated in 1967. She was well known in the Labour Party, but more importantly in public life in several

spheres. She was an experienced magistrate and especially concerned with the problems of juvenile crime. She made this the subject of her maiden speech. She said: "I would like to see a bigger probation service, better paid, because a probation officer is sometimes the only per- the miserable candidate had son with whom the young person can create a stable relationship, which is absolutely essential." And she asked for more research into the causes of alienation from society of many young people - a cruel

problem still unresolved. But this was only one aspect of her many-faceted life. She and her talented husband Ellis (a distinguished lawyer) shared a sensitivity for what is vaguely called the arts - for music. theatre, ballet, pictures, cinema. This was not snobbish expenditure but an alertness for the encouragement of young unknowns. Their support, both personal and financial, for so many causes was generous and diverse - the open-air theatre in their beloved Regent's Park for instance, where they lived in

Hanover Terrace for many She was born Alma Wilson, in 1917. Her parents ran a successful greetings cards company and unlike some contemporary politicians she never pretended to have any roots in personal poverty. What she and Ellis Birk (they married in 1939) cared about most was that other people should be able to enjoy all things good and beautiful and not be blinded by poverty or disability. Perhaps they were the heirs of William Morris and Bernard Shaw. Certainly they both supported the Fabian Society for many Museums of Scotland 1991-92:

Alma's commitments in what is now called a caring society were only one side of her exhausting life. There was much personal quiet kindness and

abeth Palmer Peabody, educationist

generosity which remained anonymous.

I first met Alrua Birk in 1953. was down the drain because my husband, Dr S.W. Jeger, MP for Holborn and St Pancras, had died suddenly in his early fifties. I was a candidate for the byelection and somehow I had to live between the funeral and polling day. Transport House appealed for volunteers from beyond the constituency for what was regarded a marginal battle. One morning a slim young woman more elegantly dressed and with a cleaner car than was usual appeared outside our Somers Town committee rooms. The loudspeaker on her car actually worked and her voice was the most attractive on her rounds. And her thoughtfulness included ensuring that

polling day. times without success (Ruislip-Northwood once, in 1950, and Portsmouth West twice, in 1951 and 1955). After these personal disappointments she never grudged helping other candidates to win.

After graduating at the London School of Economics she successfully fought for a seat on Finchley Borough Council (Thatcher country) and became leader of the Labour group. But politics were only part of her life. She wanted to write. She told me that she felt as if there was printer's ink in her veins. Her first job after leaving the LSE was as a columnist on the Daily Herald. She was no dilettante - she was strict about deadlines, accurate in research, and always fair in

This led on in the Sixties to her appointment as associate editor of the exciting, venturesome magazine Nova. It was successful in its time but times outgrew it in the view of the backers.

There must have been some kind of dynamo within Alma Birk's slim frame. She cared lovingly for her family (two children and six grandchildren) and for friends famous and unknown. Somehow, she managed to cope with too long a list of commitments to record. But her work included being a Governor at LSE, a prison visitor at Holloway, a member of the Howard League for Penal Reform, the Theatres Trust and

Holocaust Memorial Committee; and in 1969 she was appointed chairman of the Health Education Council – a fulltime job which never provided any excuse for neglecting the many other responsibilities,

hospitality. In the House of Lords she was appointed Baroness in Waiting (government whip) and then to the Department of the Environment as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in 1974 and in 1979 as Minister of State to the Privy Council. She was happiest as the chief opposition frontbench spokesman on the arts, libraries, heritage, and broadcasting. The long list

never daunted her and every

speech was carefully researched

and clearly expressed.

which included generous

For people who didn't know Alma Birk this must seem to something to eat - especially on convey a serious lady - too good | Of course Alma knew about to be true. Nobody was less like election strain. She fought three an academic good-doer. She was always good company, witty, amusing and friendly. She never forgot to ask about ailing colleagues and to follow up their needs without telling. We have missed her in the House for some time. But on three-line whips her frail figure walking with a stick was to be found chatting her lively way through the division lobby when some others would have stayed away

because of lesser ailments. in the House of Lords we are short of noble ladies with gleaming, Rossetti gold-auburn hair and a serene countenance together with a rare combination of brains, elegance, warmth and experience. Alma Birk left us too soon.

Lena Jeger

Alma Lillian Wilson, journalist and politician: born 22 September 1917; leader of Labour group, Finchley Borough Council 1950-53; Associate Editor, Nova 1965-69; created 1967 Baroness Birk; Chairman, Health Education Council 1969-72; Baroness-in-Waiting 1974; Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, De-partment of the Environment 1974-79; Minister of State, Privy Council Office 1979; Opposition frontbench spokesman on the environment 1979-86, arts, libraries, heritage and broadcasting 1986-93; President, Association of Art Institutions 1984-96; President, Craft Arts Design Association 1984-90; married 1939 Ellis Birk (one son, one daughter); died London 29 December 1996.

Krishnarao Shelvankar

Krishnarao Shelvankar had three careers, spanning nearly five decades - political 🥻 philosopher and intellectual. ournalist and then diplomat.

As an intellectual, he successfully challenged established political philosophy in the Thir-ties and Forties in England through two influential books. His Problems of India (1940), a brilliant critique of colonial rule, was one of the first books written by an Indian author to be published by Penguin. It was banned in India, then under British rule but, undaunted. Shelvankar went on to challenge Aldous Huxley's famous Ends or Means? (1937), forcefully responding with Ends are Means. Both books earned him kudos and influenced an entire generation of political leaders living under colonial bondage.

As the London correspondent for the Hindu newspaper for 26 years, Shelvankar provided an incisive and analytical insight into the newly emerging world order after decolonisation in the Fifties and Sixties, and an individual coverage of the Vietnam war. Thereafter he served as India's consul general at Hanoi and then as ambassador to the erstwhile Soviet Union and Norway.

Whilst greatly influenced by Marxism, Shelvankar was a genuine socialist, drawn intellectually to oppose colonialism. He joined the India League in London, then at the forefront of India's independence movement, and remained a member till he died. He was also influenced by Harold Laski, under whom he studied at the London School of Economics, and by Krishna Menon, one of India's best-known Leftist intellectuals. the founder of the India League and Penguin Books, India, and later independent India's first high commissioner in London.

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abortion

Krishnarao Shelvankar was born in Madras, in 1906, into an upper-class Maharashtrian family and educated at the Theosophical School founded by Annie Besant and Giddu Krishnamurthy. After graduating locally he did his doctoral thesis on "The Idea of Equality" at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1929, and then went to the LSE.

He joined the Hindu, southern India's best-established paper, in 1942 as their London correspondent, retiring 26 years later. For some two years in between he was press adviser to Jawaharlal Nehru, independent India's first prime minister, and was often called upon to represent his country at international forums like the United Nations. In 1968, he was sent as



India's consul general to North Vietnam, a country whose cause he had espoused sympathetically as a journalist. Three years later he became India's ambassador to the Soviet Union and, later, Norway before retiring in 1978 and settling in London.

Although a permanent resident in England, returning home infrequently, Shelvankar retained his Indian citizenship. But on his occasional visits home he was shocked by India's poverty, disappointed that so little had been achieved after independence.

Kuldip Singh

Krishnarao Shelvankar, journalist and diplomat: born Madras 3 March 1906; London correspondent, the Hindu 1942-68; Indian consul general. Hanoi 1968-71, ambassador to the So-viet Union 1971-75, ambassador to Norway 1975-78; died London 19 November 1996.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

instead,

DEATHS
THOMAS: Ambler Reginald Thomas
CMG, on 30 December 1996, aged 83,
peacefully at Peterhayes Nursing
Home, Exeter Much-lowed husband
of Diana, brother of Rosalie, and
father of Philippa. Jeremy, Juliet,
Anthea and Christian, Furneral service
at St Giles, Childeock, Dorset, on Friday 10 January at 11 30am, followed
by cremation at Exeter and Devon
Crematorium at 3.30pm, Family
flowers preferred; danations, if desired, to Voluntary Service Overseas, 317 Puttney Bridge Road.
London SW15 2TN.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES &

Birthdays

Brigadier Sir John Anstey, former President, National Savings Com-mittee, 90; Mr David Atherton, music director, Hong Kong Philhar-monic Orchestra, 53; Mr John Bamborough, former Principal, Linacre College, Oxford, 76; Mr Michael Barratt, television presenter, 69; Mr Victor Borge, musician and come-Victor Borge, musician and come-dian, 88: Mr Keith Brookman, General Secretary, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, 59; Sir Robin Butler, Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, 59: Professor Sir Bryan Carsberg, Secretary General, International Accounting Standards Committee, 58; Mr Fran Cotton, former rugby international, 49; Sir Alastair Forbes, former judge, 89; Mr Mel Gibson, actor, 41; Mr Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, 72: Sir Roy Harding, educationist, 73; Mr Robert Hughes MP,

cian and producer, 51; Admiral Sir Michael Layard, former Second Sea Lord, Chief of Naval Personnel, 61; Miss Anya Linden (Lady Sainsbury of Preston Candover), former ballerina, 64; Sir George Martin, chair-man, AIR group. 7cr Mr Eric Martlew MP, 48; Sir Carol Mather. former MP, 78; Mr Siegmund Nissel, former member of the Amadeus Quartet, 75; Sir John Riddell, former royal equerry, 63; Miss Eirlys Roberts, former deputy director, Consumers' Association, 86; Mr Graham Ross Russell, chairman, Securities Institute, 63; Mr Robert Steedman, architect, 68; Mr Matthew Taylor MP, 34; Mr John Thaw, actor, 55; Mr David Vine, BBC sports

Brown: Scottish Television

Anniversaries Births: Ma.cus Tullius Cicero, ora-

tor and statesman, 106 BC; Pietro Antonio Metastasio, poet, 1698;

Jean-Baptiste Madou, painter and lithographer, 1796; Douglas William Jerrold, playwright and humorist, 1803; Antoine-Thomson d'Abbadie, explorer, 1810; Robert Whitehead. inventor of the naval torpedo, 1823; Sir James Jebusa Shannon, painter, 1862; Henry Handel Richardson (Ethel Florence Richardson), nov-elist, 1870; Clement Richard Attlee, first Earl Attlee, statesman, 1883; Herbert Stanley Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, 1888; John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, writer, 1892; Ray Milland (Reginald Truscott-Jones), actor, 1907. Deaths: Beatrice d'Este, Duchess of Milan, diplomat and patron of the arts, 1497: Jeremiah Horrocks, astronomer, 1641; Luca Giordano, painter, 1705; Josiah Wedgwood, potter, 1795; Bartholomew Elliott George War-burton (Eliot Warburton), novelist, 1852; Rachel (Elisa Felix), actress, 1858; Pierre-Athanase Larousse, editor and encyclopaedist, 1875; Eliz-

and pioneer of kindergartens, 1894: William Joyce ("Lord Haw-Haw"), traitor, executed 1946; Conrad Nicholson Hilton, hotel magnate, 1979. On this day: Martin Luther was excommunicated, 1521; George Washington defeated the British army at the Battle of Princeton, 1777; work on the Brooklyn-New York bridge began, 1870; Marshal Francisco Serrano became dictator of Spain, 1874; the Siege of Sidney Street took place, when anarchists led by "Peter the Painter" were besieged by the police in the East End of London, 1911: the price of bread in London was raised to 9d mine old pence) for a 4th loaf, 1916; Howard Carter discovered the sarcophagus in the tomb of Tutankhamun, 1924; Sir Edmund Hillary reached the South Pole. 1958; Alaska became the 49th of the United States, 1959. Today is the Feast Day of St Antherus, pope. St Bertilia of Marevil. St Genevieve or Genovefa and St Pe- Institute of Physics

Lectures National Gallery: Norman Coady. "Victims of Anonymity (i): followers of Giorgione. Homage to a Poet",

Wills

The Hon Simon Andrew Weinstock, of London SW7, the businessman and racehorse owner, left estate valued at £47,398,765 net. Sir Rodney Geoffrey Swiss, of Pin-ner, Middlesex, President, General Dental Council 1974-79, left estate valued at £600.645 net. Derek Chappe Sidebottom, of Malmesbury, Wilishire, left estate val-ued at £3.604,036 net. Cecil Robert Low, of East Molesey. Surrey, left estate valued at £2,097,345 net.

The following have been elected Fellows of the Institute of Physics:

Fellows of the Institute of Physics:
Professor Alegandre Alemandrov, Loughborough University: Dr Martin Anthony, Department of Trade and Industry: London; Professor Nuno Ayres de Campos, University of Conniva. Portugal: Dr Kunfido Chung, Ajou University, Korea: Dr Peter Coveney, Schlumberger Cambridge: Research, Cambridge: Mr Raymond Cuclow. Consultant, Farnham, Surrey: Professor Graham Davies, British Telecommunication Laboratories, Inswich, Suffolk Dr Peter Dennis, Detenice Research Agency, Malvern, Worcestershire. Professor Peter Dornan, Imperial College, London; Mr Kenneth Freeman, formerly of Philips Research Laboratories, Redbill, Surrey: Mr Dereck Fry, Leeds Grammar School, Dr Malcolm Gwor, Exitoch Ltd, Long Hanborough, Oxfonkhure: Mr Brein Hill, Tainton School, Sumerset, Mr M. Akrain Khan, Oxford Ford Malson Lakinaka, Ivansplante State University.

Mr David Novrie, Philangion Optronies, St Asaph, Cloyd: Or Igar Novak, National University.

Asaph. Cloyd: Or Igor Novak, National University of Singapore: Professor Emmanuel Researcher, Thomson - CSF / LCR, Orsey.

France: Professor Thomas Smith. La Tribe University, Visioria, Australia: Professor Ker-neth Snowdon, University of Newastle upon Tyne: Dr Rajbb Tatam, Canfield University. Bedfordshre: Dr Gerni Vander Lord, Dare-bury Laboratory, Warrington; Professor Martin Wybourne, University of Oregon.

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.49pm.

United Synangogues: 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synangogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synangogues: 0171-539 1663. Reform Synangogues: 0171-539 1663. Reform Synangogues of Great British: 6181-349 4731. Spanish and Portugaese Jews Congrespation: 0171-239 2573. New London Synangogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Ousen's Life Goard at Horse Guards, Ham.

the leader page

The end of Empire will test our good faith

his year is already marked out as one of great significance for Chris Patten, in his interview with Britain, and not just because of the forthcoming election. In June Hong Kong, the last colony of any great strategic or economic importance, is to be handed back to China after more than 150 years under the Union flag.

It is a momentous step in the history of Hong Kong, once derided by Lord Palmerston as a barren little island, now one of the world's leading financial centres. But it is also a landmark for Britain. Once Hong Kong goes, there remains only a cluster of islands - once strategically important, now just dots in the oceans of the the globe.

Empire was always regarded by its proponents as a mirror in which the British could see reflected their glory, their moral superiority and their strength. We have another chance to show what we are made of this year - because the transfer of Hong Kong, perhaps more than any other decolonisation, carries grave risks for the people of the colony.

There have been signs over the past few weeks that the Government is prepared to demonstrate some spine. It has loudly said that China's plans to impose a provisional legislature on Hong Kong go against the spirit and the letter of the Joint Declaration setting out the terms for the

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The Independent today, is at pains to point out that Hong Kong's democrats must play a role in the territory after the hand-over.

But as important as the detail more so - is that Britain continues to focus on Hong Kong, keeping its eyes on the Chinese-appointed authorities and their Peking masters. The omens are not good here. The British have drifted out of empire, rarely focusing on the problems we have caused, rarely aware of the continued existence of those places where once we ruled.

A hundred years ago, Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee with a vast display of imperial might in a country that ruled a quarter of the globe. Today, we are barely aware that it ever existed. Apart from the names of streets and pubs that commemorate imperial battles or heroes, an immigrant population that came from the colonies and found a cold welcome, and a taste for an oriental beverage which we defile with milk, there is not much on the surface to show that we were once an imperial nation.

Beneath the surface, however, there is a lot. Our economy is built on the networks stitched together by empire. Most of our great institutions - from the banks to the BBC -



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bear its imprint. Our literature is full of it, from the historical to the present day. Our cuisine, in kitchens or high-street restaurants, is a testament to empire, as is our language, with its bungalows, its pyjamas and its running amok. The very creation of the idea of Britishness owes much to the imperial experience, as Linda Colley points out in her study,

Above all, there is our attitude to the rest of the world, a curious mixture of arrogance, indifference and post-imperial insecurity. All too

often, we still subconsciously see the world in terms that we have inherited from the 19th century.

Imperious still, despite our fall from grace, we rarely heed Kipling's hubristic warning: "Lest we forget -lest we forget!" We have forgotten; the achievements of empire, and the atrocities, all have been relegated to the history books, if there. All that remains is a kind of Merchant Ivory version, restaurants called "A Taste of the Raj", or Rhodes on the telly. We are a nation that has effaced our history and replaced it with a "Her-

itage" version - more palatable, less controversial, less colourful.

Later this year, we have a chance to make amends and to show that the links forged by culture, by trade and by history still mean something, Emergency help for Hong Kong dissidents and ethnic minorities must be considered as a last-minute possibility. But that should be only the start.

Britain is to host a Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Edinburgh in October, the first time such a meeting has been held here for 20 years. It is perhaps fitting that the Commonwealth will meet after the Conservatives are likely to have lost the election, ending nearly 20 years of Tory rule. For all their imperial baggage, first picked up by Disraeli in his Crystal Palace speech of 1872, the Conservatives have shown scant interest in the former colonies since the end of empire (beside the ocassional rumble over the white colonial élites).

Aid to the Commonwealth nations has been cut, their interests have routinely been ignored, and Margaret Thatcher rarely thought it worth her while to listen to the views of her peers when they met. It is to be hoped that will change under a new government.

One of the first tasks that a new Foreign Secretary will be asked to

perform is to attend the Hong Kong hand-over. If things go wrong, then or in the aftermath of Chinese rule, it will be up to - perhaps - Robin Cook to make sure that Britain's voice is heard, and respected. The empire may have gone, but the post-imperial responsibilities are

The millennium? You just missed it

Qo we've missed it. According to OChristian academics, Jesus must have been born in or before 4BC. The mix-up was, it turns out, perpetrated by a monk, Dionysus Exiguus, in 664. Thus the "real" new millennium began in 1996. The monk's lapse of concentration will cast a small cloud of doubt over the frantic moneyraising for the coming millennium party. In fact, of course, we are really celebrating the survival of ourselves. the human race, without whose counting there would be no tally of years. At the same time, we should be looking at our behaviour and asking: but for how much longer? Here, at least, old Exiguus has done us a small favour: those who believed that 2,000 vears of Christ in the world had some magical significance and meant The End have already been proved wrong.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Empathy the key to debate on abortion

abortion is how to deal with an always tragic conflict of interests between the mother and the unborn child. Almost all can empathise with the plight of the mother, and hence the general however, many also empathise with the child, especially at the later stages of development.

(1 January), one can only deduce she is unwilling or unable to countenance the latter at any stage; viability, she declares, should not be considered in determining the time limit on abortion. And she even claims that the issues are so crystal clear that even pro-lifers are half-hearted in their protests. So come on, Ms Toynbee,

explain. What are these supposedly self-evident truths about the nature of the unborn child? Please spell out the universally agreed stages in development at which a foetus is granted no rights/some rights/full human rights. Do you believe there are any circumstances in which society should deny a woman the right to an abortion, even up to full

refusal to empathise with others particularly society's victims which is seen in other contexts as a major cause of the disintegration of social cohesion and the rise in violence. And it is a lack of empathy which drives the US prolife extremists - with whom Ms Toyubee claims to sympathise - to acts of violence, and which. thankfully, is absent in this country. MANUS HENRY

present Act. Bouncing babies had obtained an abortion in the

mean no abortions; desperate women will seek help where they can. All terminations of pregnancy are to be regretted, but there should be a choice for these to be performed in decent and hygienic conditions. Dr PETER SAUNDBY Llangynidr, Powys

willing to barricade myself outside the Houses of Parliament if that fact that American-style aggression tactics are not present in England in no way betokens a lack of desperate feeling. The next few months may provide the most effective rejoinder to Ms Toynbee's gibes! The Rev CHRIS FINDLAY-WILSON

Sir: Your leading article of 30 December defends Tony Blair's on his neighbours. I look forward to hearing parliamentary candidates say that although they personally favour abortion, they that they cannot impose their morality on unborn children. BRENDAN GERARD London NH7

Sir: At the heart of the debate on

consensus on her right to choose; From Polly Toynbee's comments

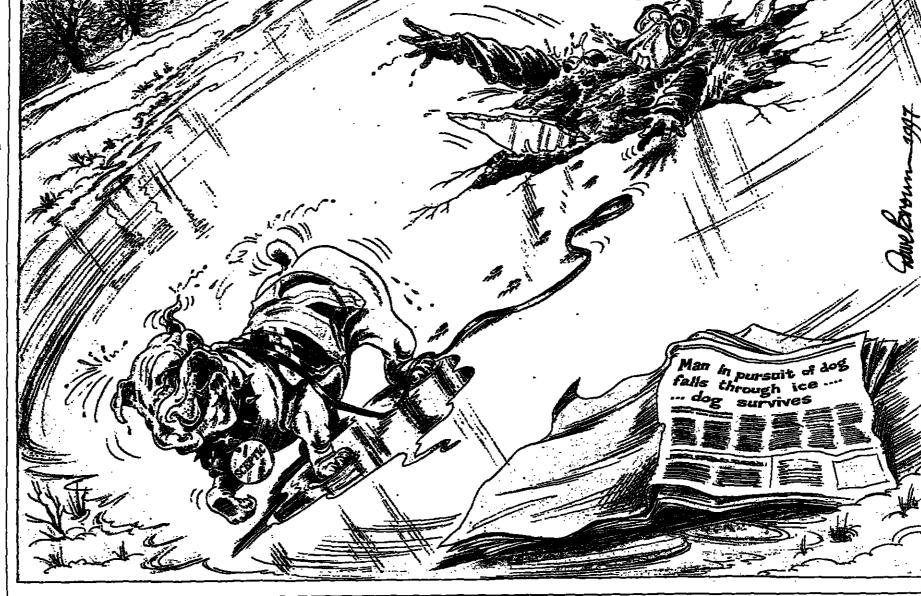
It is precisely this inability or

Sir: Those proposing that the criminal law is applied to abortion present evidence which does not accord with the memories of those who practised medicine prior to the adopted by loving parents did exist; but all too common were infected and sometimes dying women who back streets.

It is an illusion to think that probibiting abortion by law will

Sir. In reply to Polly Toynbee's taunts, I for one would be very would change the abortion laws. The Poole, Dorset

voting for abortion on the grounds that he will not impose his morality will vote against it on the grounds



Stroll into the new millennium

Sir: As I read - and sympathised with - the hopes of Lord Rogers for the Millennium Dome (interview, 23 December) I wondered if it would not be more daring, and more sensible, to spend millions, hundreds of millions. on transforming central London -

even briefly - into a car-free zone. World's Largest Pedestrian City? Millennium Festival: Biggest Street Fair Ever? What would a season of traffic-free London produce in terms of visitors, events, and defining London as the city of the future? What would £700m buy? A week? A month? Six months? And what if it included imaginative transformations of Trafalgar Square, Marylebone Road, the Mall, Oxford Street? Temporary constructions, happenings, performance spaces,

gardens. The Exhibition of 1851 was partly about things to come. It fired the imagination, drawing the curious from around the world. It was hugely successful, and transformed London. What worked then doesn't work

now. Faith in technology has eroded. Architectural monuments and grand landscapes are less and less likely to draw people. We look for improved quality of life in less tangible things: free time, open space, peace and quiet, a healthy environment and a sense of common purpose. A bold step in that direction would again bring people from around the world. It might mark the start of another

DAVID PAPADOPOULOS London N4

Knights do battle for the theatre

Sir: It is splendid that Alan Ayckbourn and Richard Eyre have both been knighted. The regional theatre in Britain has long honoured them both for their contribution to it and their redoubtable defence of it.

Sir Alan's battle in Scarborough ("Why Ayckbourn will fight on for his theatre", 31 December) is indeed representative of several last-ditch stands that will take place this spring as the effects of central government's standstill grant to the Arts Council and its annual cuts to local councils come through the pipeline.

For every one of the past five years regional theatres have warned that they are cutting the number of plays they produce, the number of actors they employ, the adventurousness of their programming and their valuable services in education and training. We are being forced to diminish the many roles we play, from helping to create more cohesive local communities through to underpinning the commercial

theatre. This latter role has been fully acknowledged by our most successful commercial producer, Sir Cameron Mackintosh. Now we have two more knights in the field. We'll need them more than ever in the dangerous weeks ahead when local councils and the Arts Council take their onerous decisions, while the Government turns a blind eye Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

to the damage it is doing to the health and wealth of the nation. PHILIP HEDLEY Theatre Royal Stratford East London E 15

Sir: Sir Edward Elgar, Sir Michael Tippett, Sir William Walton, Lord Webber, Enough said. DAVID MOORE

Intrusion at the prison gate

Sir: The allegations by members of the probation service of intrusive body-searching ("Union acts over jail searches of visitors", 28 December) are alarming. I write as a former member of the probation service, of the Probation Inspectorate, and as one who currently has extensive contact with probation officers throughout the country.

Over the years, I have never encountered any reported incidents among members of the service that the Prison Department seems so keen to prevent. In the past two or three years I have been an occasional official visitor to a maximum-security prison in a neighbouring county. These visits have been made to probation staff and not to prisoners. Nevertheless, although I have not been searched in the intimate fashion so rightly complained of by probation officers, every item in one's possession has to be removed. and on one occasion my pen was unscrewed; on another a small nail-

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

file safely lodged in a comb case had to be left at the gate. Not even highrisk airlines such as El Al go to such lengths. At the prison in question a costly system of identity cards for visitors was introduced, only to be abandoned for technical reasons; this would not, however, have obviated

the regular searching procedures. I am fully in favour of rigorous measures to prevent escapes and the introduction of contraband items, if these are applied in a discriminating fashion and with an adequate understanding of riskassessment. In view of current prison over-crowding the Prison Department can ill afford to alienate professionals like probation officers who can often nelp to defuse tensions. Professor H PRINS Midlands Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice Loughborough University Leicestershire

Happy dogs in quarantine

Sir: It seems clear that the discussion on rabies and quarantine rules ("Quarantine laws on the dog house", 13 December) is to be clouded by an anthropomorphic argument as follows: "I would hate to face six months solitary confinement: therefore my dog

suffers as I would." This is not necessarily true. Can future duration of six months?

a dog appreciate time – especially a I was for some time in veterinary

"boredom". Of course, when their owners visited, they exhibited transports of excitement and joy; yet as soon as the visitors were out of sight, sound and smell, the dog would settle down to "do its time" at once. I saw no evidence of pining

charge of quarantine kennels, and

dogs. They settled down at once to

observed the behaviour of many

balanced than at home!), regular

exercise and what we would call

regular meals (maybe better

Since those days I have had to deal with a good few cases of rabies and suspected rabies when in the tropics, and I continue to support our quarantine regulations for the sake of animals which could be exposed to this terrible death, wild life put at the same risk, and of owners and others having to deal with rabid dogs. BRENDAN HALPIN MRCVS Charlbury, Oxfordshire

Rape trauma

Sir: Remarks attributed to Professor Joan Freeman ("Years of trauma for rape victims", 30 December) are factually incorrect. Long-term psychological disorder is not an inevitable consequence of rape. Not all rape victims feel guilty. Children are not necessarily more resilient than adults. Treatment does not have to be

given daily for a year. These comments can only further depress women who are coping with the consequences of sexual assault, and dissuade them from seeking the effective and relatively brief treatments which

Dr JAMES THOMPSON Director, Traumatic Stress Clinic London B7

Stupid machine is no threat

Sir: Andrew Wyatt's letter (31 December) caused much mirth at our breakfast table. Only last week. we took delivery of a new wordprocessor and found ourselves muttering a number of words not to be found in its vocabulary. This machine of infinite self-satisfaction speaks no tongue but its own, and can never answer questions like "Why are you asking me to close documents I am not aware of having opened?"

Machines may have brains, if these really are only a "mass of electrochemical switches", but they are totally and boringly lacking in personality. If we had had a human teacher to explain our new machine to us last week, instead of a set of inflexible mechanical responses, we should not have missed the last nost on Christmas Eve. I never cease to wonder at the naïvety of scientists who keep on hoping that one day their dolls will turn out to be alive. DORAINE POTTS

Sir: Andrew Wyatt, envisaging a world taken over by artificial intelligence, seems to be content with the idea that some time in the near future the human race will be treated in the same way as it currently treats chimpanzees.

I do not look forward to a day when people are kept in small cages with no room to exercise and may be used for vivisection. A Brave New Future? I don't think

S WROE

Birmingham Sir: Andrew Wyatt, in his image of our future on some earthlike nature reserve, mentions that we would be protected and safe. Us? Get a grip. It is the rest of the universe that would be protected and safe. JOHN ATHANASIOU London N9

Slow train

Sir: Roger Cowell (letter, 31 December) complains with reason about the train service from Oxford. A service such as he experienced sends a message to its customers: "We are unreliable and do not care about you. Please do not use our trains."

However, the Oxford train service was notoriously poor even before privatisation; hence the successful coach services which now compete with the trains between Oxford and London. By contrast. South West Trains' services from Hampshire to London were good before privatisation, and remain so (same trains, mostly the same staff). Privatisation seems to have had little effect on service quality either way, so far. JOHN STANNING *Winchester*

Omen for Major?

Sir: As we enter a general election year, it may be of interest to recall what Salisbury said to Balfour about a failing Disraeli administration.

As head of a Cabinet his fault was want of firmness. The chiefs of Departments got their own way too much. The Cabmet as whole got it too little, and this necessarily followed from having at the head of affairs a statesman whose only final political principle was that the Party must on no account be broken up, and who shrank therefore from excreising coercion on any of his subordinates. PHILIP GOLDENBERG Woking, Surrey



Rich men behaving badly Stranger than fiction: squabbling luminaries of the anti-European parties, headed by a wild-eyed

Sir James Goldsmith, remind Christopher Harvie of some outlandish characters from literature

Sleaze

now looks

like the

lubricant

that runs

the place

eventeen years ago, when Scottish devolution went down the Suwannee and Mar-Thatcher steamed in to power, I made my excuses and left. I had been offered the newly created chair in British studies at the University of Tübingen. Germany.

One of the other contenders was Dr Alan Sked of the London School of Economics. Like some university character in Anthony Powell's Dance to the Music of Time, encountered subsequently in a new and implausible guise, Dr Sked (another Scot, but let that pass) is these days the supremo of the United Kingdom Independence Party, sworn foe of the federal Europe that he seemingly wasn't too worried about in 1979. Sked's outfit is a Reliant Robin in the national salvation stakes, but has scored first blood in a contest that looks like outdoing Tory-Labour or even Tory-Tory for all-out venom.

One John Bostock, Northwest regional organiser of Sir he should know what he is talk- crat, for sure.

ing about, but I don't intend to intrude on the private grief of Anglo-Britain. The alluring thing about the clash of patriots is its entertainment value. Watching Goldsmith and his Referendum Party - recycled

Thatcherite headbangers and golden-thighed blondes out of Hello! cavorting before the Vic-tor Meldrew fan club of Godalming - is certainly more fun than John and Tony intoning Christian morality. But have we been here before?

Those staring china-blue eyes. Fleming's Goldfinger had em. But he was dwarfish, redhaired and wore plus fours. Staring out of Goldsmith's sunwrinkled skull, they reminded me more of Jeremy Bentham's head, in that hatbox in University College London. Bang on for fanaticism, but very dead,

Or Buchan's Dominic Med-James Goldsmith's Referen- ina in The Three Hostages? dum Party, has fled to Sked, Hemispherical skull right, eyes claiming that Goldsmith's is a right. Tory party background Potemkin party, "an empty right. But Medina was Irish, not shell ... run by amateurs". As much taken with the Great a former Conservative agent. British public: a proto-Euro-

Advertisement

ish, cosmopolitan, been there, seen that, knew them, and could buy the lot, given time and inclination. Disraeli himself managed to put the Tory party out of the political running for nearly 30 years, after he went for Peel's jugular over Free Trade in 1846. Hmm.

Think of the Goldsmith entourage, and remember a scabrous but entertaining series of novels by Simon Raven: Alms for Oblivion, Friends in Low Places, The Rich Pay Late, Places Where They Sing, Bring Forth the Body. This was a public-school world inhabited almost exclusively by Flashmans, in which various louche customers - military men, gamblers, journalists, academics and straightforward shits of hell - sallied out of toxic versions of the Drones Club and the Speciator.

For a decade they wheeled and dealed entertainingly in Macmillan's and Wilson's England, combating "the malice of time, chance and the rest of the human race". And despite this,

Referendum Party, albeit older and balder: the Carton Weirs, Max de Frevilles, Lords Canteloupe. Admittedly the orangutan tendency of John Aspinall seemed beyond even Raven's powers of imagination, but the money, more than 600 candiineffable Lord Rees-Mogg, intoning in *The Times*, had fig-

ured as the hyper-devious Som-

James in Raven and Edward Fox was quite capable of playing the

other But things changed. Multinational speculators, Merdles, Melmottes, used to come to grief

British trains. Nowadays they tend to own them. In Alms for Oblivion days, Goldsmith was -Claremont and partying at activists who now find them-Annabels – harmlessly occu- selves forlorn, exiled from local pied in the grocery business, flogging kitchen rolls to Scottish wifies in Templeton's and Coopers. After his Wilson Eighties' superstar, he went global and invented something meant the freedom to make deals in several languages from

several tax havens, Goldsmith is now before us as Anglo-British patriot. The recent sequence of adverts, urging the voters to choose between a federal Europe and some so-far-unrealised association of national states, cost

Go back a bit. Disraeli's they had all managed to residonia, out of *Coningsby*? Jewappear in the penumbra of the entire election budget of the Scottish National Party. If you allocate Goldsmith's total £21m largesse seat-by-seat, he will be putting up £2.3m in Scotland

> Since the effect of rallies, dates and bags of publicity from the right-wing press, has not even been a hairline blip in the opinion polls,

the Referendums begin to look more like the Maharishi's Levitators than, say, Sir Oswald Mosley's New Party in 1931. And Mosley, as an ex-Labout more credibility.

Although the under the symbolic wheels of Referendum ideology may be contorted - good of Diceyian parliamentary sovereignty plus people's rights against Parliawhen not gambling at the ment - their appeal to Tory affairs, menaced by big capi-talism, is real enough. This is going to be an election where a couple of percentage points knighthood, like many an off the Tory vote could make the difference between manageable defeat and catastrophe called "polyculturalism". This on the scale of 1846 or 1906 with intriguing consequences for the grander sort of specu-

> It is this "going for broke" element - volcanic cash movements with millions punted on the outcome - which conjures up Raven's world: de Freville, Lykiadopoulos, Lloyd James, doing rather well against time,

chance, etc. Not least Sir James himself, unloading his grocery shares before Black Friday, when immature yuppies went from bang to crash.

Annabel's and the Clarmont are now up and running on a world scale: dedicated to the preservation of the ethic that turns currency fluctuations into huge gains for the very rich. Since speculation accounts for about 90 per cent of the business of the City of London, with boring old industrial finance clocking up a mere 10 per cent. the Referendum boys will have a lot of well-heeled allies in stripy shirts, who don't like the idea of a stable euro one bit.

What Raven cottoned on to,

and more solemn cultural critics such as Correlli Barnett and Martin Wiener did not, has been how well aristocratic values of a sort have actually coped with Bagehot's "rough and vulgar world of English commerce". The green baize tables at Whites and Crockfords have always been closer to the City than to the widget-makers. Since the mid-Seventies. London fleshpots have thrived on the immigration of great, if less-than-progressive, wealth from the Middle East and more

recently from East Europe. While Thatcher twittered on about providing "know-how" to the ex-Soviets to enable them to become Grantham councillors and pillars of the Wesleyan Chapel, Russia's new neo-feudalists exported about 15 times more cash westwards for booze, cars, jewellery, girls

and property. This commonwealth of highrollers is the up-to-date version

ning of the century "the malefactors of great wealth". Roosevelt developed federal government to work in favour of the citizen by keeping the Fisks, Morgans and Rockefellers in line, and it is this "strong" version of federalism that Goldsmith and his ilk view with all the enthusiasm that

Dracula had for garlic. Brussels is more of a babel than it ought to be, but the way its conventions are being built up resem- . bles, as Judge David Edward of the European Court at Luxembourg has told us, the Amer-ican federal ideal admired by Roosevelt's friend, the Scots constitutionalist and internationalist James Bryce. Once a properly federal authority gets them in its sights, the "polycultural" rich have every reason to

In the 18th century, Adam

Smith and David Hume argued that a small state like their own Scotland couldn't restrain the "luxury and corruption" that went with capitalism: bence the importance to them of the Union and the London parliament. But luxury and corruption were as much the breath of life to Raven's gang as duping local Tory worthies with flannel about moral revival. Is it a coincidence that Goldsmith and company (and behind them a none-too-discreet Rupert Murdoch) arrive like the US cavalry when Westminster, far from tackling

accommodates it? Hypocrisy was the stock-in-trade of Raven's Turbots and of what the US President Teddy time, this bunch would quickly Minister.

grasp how ill constitutional patriotism sits with a public estimate which has gone, over two decades, from enthusiasm to near-disgust. Sleaze, still exotic in Alms for Oblivion, now looks like the lubricant that runs the place.

In an epoch where one parttime novelist, Douglas Hurd, could put his salary up by a factor of four when he shifted from the Foreign Office to a bank, Westminster itself looks like a South-east England microstate - the Senate of Nimbyia - performing Monaco or Liechtenstein services for the

stinking rich. There is a lot of ruin in a nation, but a point comes when sheer delirium sets in. Anglo- British, of which the Referendum Party is the pathological version, seems to have got there. Twenty-odd years ago, before Anthony Trollope became the comfort blanket of the English élite, Raven made a second reputation adapting him for television, scoring a particular hit with The Way We Live Now.

This sour tale was of England tenemented by speculators, mercenary yuppies and aristos on the take, the House of Commons as its head. It was chosen by John Major as his gift to the newly elected Bill Clinton. Was he trying to tell him something? -

"I like a rough game," says Raven's Lord Cantaloupe after some particularly dirty deal has kept nemesis at bay, "and even a foul one, but I won't risk having the entire stadium blown up." Polyculturalists don't have to worry about that.

Professor Harvie is the author of The Centre of Things: British ballooning global speculation, Political Fiction from Disraeli to the present', Routledge, £11.95. He is currently writing an intro-duction for the Everyman edition Cantaloupes. Overdone at the of . Inthony Trollope's 'The Prime

Seven out of ten in the UK die without a Will

rew people expect If you are unmarried, to pass away in none of your property the near future will need to be a second to be a the near future most of us have every surviving partner expectation of going on for years. Perhaps this is the reason seven out of ten people in this country die without ever making relatives. including a Will.

There are other reasons of course. Will making is often thought to be time-consuming and complicated — this is not always the case. Sometimes there are issues which are difficult to discuss with family members.

Others assume that, even without a Will, when they die, their wife or husband will automatically inherit all their money and

Not true.

Waking a Will — and keeping it VLup to date - is essential to safeguard your loved ones.

If you are married, your property may not necessarily pass in its entirety to your husband or wife, unless you make a Will leaving him or her everything.

will pass to your unless you make a Will. If you die without

leaving a Will, the law provides that certain brothers, sisters, parents, cousins, aunts and uncles might be entitled to your estate. It leaves a horrible mess — at a time when the people you leave behind, and hoped to be able to support, are least able to cope.

When you marry, any Will you made previously may become null and void. If you divorce, any provision made for your previous spouse is cancelled. The birth of a child or a death in the family could mean you should amend an existing Will. A significant increase or reduction in the value of your personal assets could require an amendment to any existing Will. If you die without leaving a Will and you have no relatives,

your entire estate will go to the government. Making a Will - and keeping it up to date — is absolutely vital if you want to ensure that the needs of quote reference IN23.

your loved ones are catered for in the event of your

Have you made a Will? Is your Will up to date?

WWF have published a free guide to Will making which outlines, clearly, the issues you need to bear in mind when preparing a Will and explains some of the more confusing jargon associated with Wills and becruests.

It also describes how you can go about making a bequest to charity - in particular WWF-UK.

Remember, having an out-of-date Will is little better than having no Will at all. This free booklet is essential reading if you care about your family and friends — it's, also important for your own peace of mind.

So, send for your free guide today, which you can request by calling 01483 426445 or writing to Sally Burrowes, Legacies Officer, WWF-UK, FREEPOST, Panda House, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BR.

Please also remember to

Bollie all round: last year's fabbest women

Testerday I brought you the top boys' names of ▲ 1996 as calculated from their popularity in media headlines, with Mister (as in "Mister Darcy" and Mister Willoughby") being the winner, closely pursued by other unusual boys' names such as Wallace and Gromit, which goes to show that new names can still make their

mark even today. Incidentally, I have had several protests saying that the whole thing must be fixed, as the name John (as in John Major) was not even mentioned. What these protesters do not realise is that the PM is never referred to as John in headlines; he is always referred to by his surname, as footballers and cricketers

are. You may be able to fiddle things on Today but not in this column! And so to the girls' names of 1996. No sign this year of last year's winner, Pamelanderson, nor of other hot names such as Divine and

Janet. One can hardly

remember now why the name

Divine was so fashionable -

indeed, I find it hard to dig

up any reference to Janet Street-Porter, responsible alone for the popularity of the name Janet in 1995. Where is she now? What is she doing? No answers on a

postcard, please. Some interesting new girls names this year, including Mandy. What is interesting about this is that although it is a girl's name, it is borne most famously by a man, Peter Mandelson. We have also seen a revival of Jennifer. partly because of the TV programme Two Fat Ladies and partly because of Jennifer Saunders, author of the new departed Absolutely Fabulous. One very interesting thing about Absolutely Fabulous, by the way, is that if you imagined Edina and Patsy going on into later life, you can't help thinking that they might end up very like Clarissa and Jennifer in Two Fat Ladies. Was this in fact intended to be a sitcom and are they fictional characters?

Just a thought. Incidentally, it is food for thought that the names of the two characters in Absolutely Fabulous - Edina and Patsy - came higher up



Miles Kington

the list than the names of the actresses playing them. But without further ado, on to the top 10 newspaper girls' names in 1996. (Last year's positions in brackets.)

2. Fergie 'n' Di 3. Cruella ... Pandora. Ruby .. 8. Norma Cherie

winner, not only because it was the top Jane Austen name of the year, but because it featured in several other successful romantic episodes. Who can forget the period costume drama in which Emma Nicholson was wooed and won by the Liberal Democrats? Or in which Emma Thompson was wooed and won by

Mr Willoughby? I was personally glad to see Aung so popular, as this unusual Burmese name is attached to the deserving Burmese heroine Aung San Suu Kyi, who has suffered so much at the hands of the thugs who run Burma that she has had a Nobel Peace Prize conferred on her, though she only got third place in the Today programme's Personality of the Year contest, behind John Major, who has never shown such an appetite for democracy as Aung San Suu Kyi. Something wrong here, perhaps you are thinking? Cynics might say that it was

unlikely for Today listeners

to have voted for anyone

with personality at all. What is unusual in this list is that at least three names belong to fictional characters (Emma, Pocahontas and Cruella) and there is some doubt about the existence in real life of anyone called Ruby Wax. Pandora is an unusual name, belonging to the wife of one of the Maxwell brothers and, as the judge in his trial said, it takes a woman of saintly suffering to be married to one of the Maxwell brothers. Other names that bobbed around without quite making the Top 10 were Ffyona, which is the sort of name borne by people who think it is interesting to walk round the world, and Bienvenida, which is the sort of name borne by people ... but I had better be careful. No one wants a libel suit so early in the new year. And my predictions for 1997? Well, I fancy a rise in the ratings for Norma 'n' Cherie. Perhaps a sitcom for them together, like Clarissa and Jenuifer or Eddie and Patsy? Stranger things have

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Goodbye to Hong Kong, hello to a new prosperity

his year is going - with utter certainty - to be the end of an era in British history. No, that is not a comment about the result of the forthcoming general election. Something much more important is drawing to a close: this year sees the end of colonial-ism. The process of decolonisation, which began in earnest with India half a century ago, ends with the handover of

Hong Kong.

If the period of history is finished, a legacy lingers on, and it is a legacy which will become increasingly important as we increasingly important as we move into the next century. For the past 50 years the economic impact of empire has probably on balance been negative. In the early part of the period there was an enormous and continuing defence burden. The illusion of grandeur encouraged sloppy thinking encouraged sloppy thinking among politicians, while the existence of still-captive markets encouraged an even more destructive sloppiness among our exporters. In any case, with a couple of exceptions of which Hong Kong is a prime example, the former colonies were not particularly fast-growing mar-kets: even if we did retain some sort of inside track, it was of little economic advantage.

For the next 50 years, this will all change. For a number of unrelated reasons the legacy seems likely to become positive.

Most obviously the handover of Hong Kong clears the way for a more relaxed relationship with what will, within the next 15 years, become the world's largest economy. Two

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centuries ago, before the engine of industrialisation began in Europe and then there are a further 100 million who use it as a North America, China was by far the world's largest economy. Since the market reforms of 1979 (much more important than the modest changes we made here), China's economic takeoff seems certain to push it back to that ear-lier dominance. Establishing a mature and comfortable relationship with China has been impossible up to now - a point indirectly acknowledged by Chris Patten in his interview paper today. Once the handover is complete, and the land has been handed back in rather better nick than it was taken over, the

basis for an adult relationship will again exist. The second reason to be positive about the legacy of empire is that the relative growth performance of several former colonies seems likely to improve over the next 50 years. The most obvious example is that other giant, India. Two centuries ago, India was second to China in the size of its economy - that is why we wanted to get our paws on it - but the economic performance through the post-war period has been disappointing. But India too is now starting to recover. Its take-off will not have the astonishing vigour of China's, and in any case it is still the best part of a generation away. Nevertheless, given its size, even a modest change in performance will have a dramatic impact not just



Hamish McRae

For the past 50 years the economic impact of empire has been negative. Now a new and benign commercial empire is being quietly

assembled

called "emerging markets". These include not just many former colonies but other countries with which Britain has had a long economic association dating back to the last century: much of Latin Amer-ica, Russia and some African countries too. For most of the post-war period, having expertise in portfolio investment in

on the subcontinent, but on the

rest of the world. Given the gen-

uine affection between Britain

and India, this country will on

A third reason for expecting

the legacy of empire to benefit

this country comes from its

associated tradition of looking

outwards as an international

investor. During the past 10 years there has been explosive

growth in investing in what are

balance tend to benefit.

tions are never

experts tell us,

because they are

too general. The more specific

a resolution, apparently, the

more chance we have of stick-

ing to it. In this spirit, I propose that in order to improve the

quality of life of our nation we resolve simply to become less self-deluded than we were in

1996. So here's wishing you all a hypocrisy-free 1997 full of

And here are my suggestions for how we might achieve this.

1 Morality: No one should be allowed to use this word in

1997. Special dispensation may

be granted to archbishops,

politicians and pundits who may be struck dumb but the

word will only be reinstated to

those who demonstrate some

vaguely moral behaviour them-

selves rather than drone on

about other people's lack of it. Hopefully the exodus from

the moral high ground will mean that morality is once

more understood as a code of

behaviour rather than a com-

modity that can be purchased

at will by self-appointed seers.

Nothing, not even terrible personal loss, will qualify any-one to speechify about public

morals. Policy cannot be

grafted on to victimhood or

created out of grief. For all the

hysteria about moral values,

the reality is that talk comes

cheap and costs governments

nothing. If we want to make the

world a better place, let's pay

the price or, as our glorious

leader said, put up and shut up.

2 Soap operas: People who go

round claiming that soap operas

are a) going too far, b) not as

good as they used to be, or c)

damaging the nation's youth

should not watch them, leaving

the rest of us to enjoy one of our

national treasures. This bizarre

coterie of Cambridge dons,

Jimmy Corkhill.

What else is there to say?

more hope than hype.

developing countries was not a skill that brought great eco-nomic benefits, but now the focus of growth has shifted. As a result, Britain has become the largest centre in the world for such international portfolio investment. A new and benign commercial empire is being quietly assembled. Finally, there is the English language. One of the great

abiding legacies of colonialism is the anchoring of English as the world's first global language. English will, in the next 20 years, become the first language in the history of the world to be spoken by more people as a second language than as a first. According to The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language, there are between 320 million and 380 million people who speak Eng-lish as a first language. But

second language (frequently speaking it better than most of us do), and another 200 million who have some command of it.

t may not be English English which will come to dominate. A few years ago most people would have expected American English to become the world standard. There is an irony here, that it is partly thanks to the sequent development by Americans of the world's first global popular culture - that our language has become so dominant. But actually it may not even be American English that becomes the world standard, but World English, which will be different from both. Nevertheless, in a world where trade is increasingly in intangibles - half of Britain's foreign earnings are in service or investment income - being an Anglophone country becomes more and more of an economic advantage. Britain is the second-largest exporter (after the US) of intellectual property in the world, and this is in large measure a function of language.

In fact, if we didn't speak English I think we would be in quite a lot of economic trouble. And now that we have dumped the final vestige of empire, we can get on with exploiting it.

Ten tips for a happy, hype-free New Year

حكنا س الاجل

by Suzanne Moore



Focing up to 1997: clockwise from bottom left, Tony Blair, Ross Kemp (Grant Mitchell), Delia Smith, Liam Gallagher, Victoria Adams (Spice Girl), Sir Terence Conran, Dean Sullivan (Jimmy Corkhill) and Gerry Adams

Liam and Patsy should get out less and have some babies. Reproduction is the new rock'n'roll. Remember, you read it here first

and snobs who don't watch cliches: a) Evil drug pushers. enough television are deranged from your mates or mates of and should be deported, or at least given a good seeing to by your mates, b) Campaigns centred on innocent victims. Leah the likes of Grant Mitchell and Betts, who was turned into an extraordinary martyr to a vague 3 Drugs: Some drugs are good, some drugs are bad. Some are anti-drug cause, was never portrayed as she actually was. It legal, some aren't. Some can kill turns out that she was an ordiyou quickly, some slowly. Some nary girl who had experimented of us take them some of the with drugs before. c) The idea time, some of us don't. Some that only a weird, disturbed and dispossessed sub-section drugs are better than others. of our youth uses drugs. Survey We could easily bring the after survey illustrates that drug debate on drugs up to date by use is mainstream rather than a just saying no to the following subcultural activity. Why do we

continue to deny this? How the Everyone knows you get drugs hell do you think The Prodigy keep getting to number one?

> 4 Ireland: The macho pretence that there is an alternative to talking is wearing dangerously thin. Refusal to talk, refusal to admit that there is talking going on anyway, the refusal to acknowledge that no solution will ever come from silence leads to stagnation.

Priding ourselves on our refusal to negotiate is dumb and even dumber politics. Talking is not surrendering to violence, silence just might be.

5 Education: The big issue, supposedly. What kind of issue is this, then? Shall we have education or not? Shall we continue to divide and rule by an educational caste system? The air would be cleared and the whole debate would be greatly improved if only those whose children were actually being educated in local state schools were allowed to comment. This may mean a less verbose year for the likes of Mr Blair and Ms Harman, which may be a tragedy for them, but rather good news for the rest

6 Rock 'n' roll: We must resolve that nothing in 1997 is to be deemed the new rock n' roll. Nor should anyone be allowed to regard the Spice Girls as some sort of provocative text in need of a good deconstruction, They are a pop group, for Christ's sake. Jarvis Cocker should get out more. Liam and Patsy should get out less and have some babies. This is the only way to go, as Madonna has proved. Reproduction is the new rock n'roll. Remember. you read it here first.

7 Poverty and crime: Those who say that poverty causes crime should be incarcerated alongside those who say there is no link whatsoever. As normal folk appear to realise quite easily that the link between the two could not be so simple. how come experts talk in this daft way? Locked away in their prison cells, members of various think-tanks and foundations can discuss social breakdown to their hearts' content. Obviously there will be no remission for good behaviour.

8 Food: 1997 should be the year to get food back into proportion. If working is the new rock 'n' roll, then Delia Smith is Courtney Love. Opening restaurants, going to restaurants, writing about restaurants is all fine and dandy, but there is a limit to how much we want to know about what other people have eaten. Food is to be enjoyed, not endlessly re-counted and regurgitated as some sort of signifier of aes-theticism. Lloyd Grossman, Mar-co Pierre White and Terence Conran can bore each other to death playing Fantasy Dinner Par-ties and talking about how to dry extortionately priced mushrooms. In our house, we are still im-pressed by microwave popcorn.

9 Cyberspace: The final frontier. Not. Many women over 60 are still scared of cash machines. The Internet is better in fantasy han reality, but the digital community would rather not download this information as they seriously believe it may make them look less interesting. Is such a thing possible?

Anyway, to those for whom the promise of "never-ending worldwide communication" is attractive, let me remind you of the reality: endless e-mails from someone who could easily telephone you saying "Please phone me". Why can't anyone be honest about the damn thing?

10 The monarchy: Can't live with them. Can't shoot them. Why ever not?

Keeping democracy in proportion

In the second of a three-part series defending the Constitution, Richard D North looks at PR

he Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats, intermittently *The Economist*, and a spate of articles from the pens of Andrew Marr (this paper's editor), Simon Jenkins (of The Times) and Will Hutton (ex-The Guardian), have all suggested how we could improve the way Britons are governed. The curious thing is that the attempts are serious, but mostly go to show how little need there is for much change. The fundamental problem the few serious

reformers face is that they can only talk among themselves. It is not the subject of discussion in pubs; people do not march in the streets about it; promising radical improvement to the system would bring on yawns, and possibly hostility. Of course, all this isn't a guide to whether reform

All those who are disenfranchised by the present first-past-the-post system are voiceless in the matter, by definition. Only if a third party holds the balance of power in a hung parliament could they press the case for one of the many systems of proportional representation which would be more rational and fair than what we have now.

PR could ensure that the seats held by a party in the House of Commons correlated rather better with its voting figures. However, there is a risk with most really fair PR systems: they tend to weaken two important and competing parts of an MP's job and relations with power. He (or she) currently represents a party and a place, and plays each against the other. When constituents press for goodies from the national exchequer, the MP can claim that it's not in the party manifesto; when his party presses him to abuse his conscience in some matter, he can sometimes claim his constituents insist on it. Under the systems of PR which most ensure that the seats in the nation's legislature match the nation's voting habits, he may become dangerously beholden to party while losing the chance to play the constituency card. Along the way, more MPs would risk becoming policy works obsessing on plat-forms, instead of local personalities being edu-

cated in Saturday surgeries.
Still, it is true that the House of Commons is arguably at a critical juncture when, after a few decades of a convenient if entrenched and occadecades of a convenient in entrended and occa-sionally stultifying class warfare, it will present the more traditional scene in which parties become a shifting array of temporary alliances



The poil tax riots: parties must respond to an increasingly shrilt society

between whichever members could be marshalled into a ministry and an opposite. The result wasn't necessarily particularly efficient, because ministries sometimes changed so often. Anyway, the organising principle of socialism's battle with capitalism, and its concomitant broad-church parties, may splinter. It may seem no more than a staging post between the previous system of corrupt boroughs bought by intensely partisan interests, which served until the 19th century, and the more democratic PR (or even electric

plebiscites), which will do for the 21st. There is, however, a further difficulty with establishing PR. It may be galling to committed third-party members and politicians, but their purpose may best be served by threatening (but never quite abolishing) the existing two-party sysnever quite accusining the easing two-party sys-tem. In an age of public pressure groups, they may be little more than glorified campaigns among many. We have seen the existing main two political parties absorb and abandon creeds at will. If class pressure no longer informs their

protesters and all the other elements of an

increasingly shrill society. Provided some organising principle was at hand - and it might be the degree of enthusiasm for Europe, or free trade (not quite the same thing), or, more likely, commitment to high or low taxes - it might remain possible to run a fairly simple system in which two main ministries alternated, with third, fourth and fifth parties being useful, but never treated quite fairly.

The PR issue is necessarily about numbercrunching, and is very boring. There are much less important issues than this, which attract far more interest. There is no reason at all why we should have a monarchy, except that we like it and it is good for tourism. If opinion switched against it, it could go, and be replaced by the Privy Council, which arguably does most of the monarchy's hardest job anyway. The nation is quite capable of sensing its identity by looking at the Radio Times or the Daily Mail.

There is no particular need for a president, thinking, they have become mightily aware of the need to respond to poll tax rioters, anti-roads one interesting but disinterested, dignified but Tomorrow: Don't blame the Constitution.

decorous, to do the job. We haven't entirely managed to combine these in the monarchy, which uses panoply and tradition to disguise the fact. In any case, as Bernard Shaw pointed out in The Apple Cart, the previous monarch would almost certainly win any poll for the job.

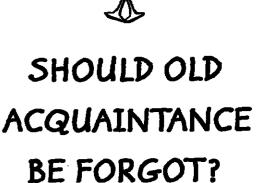
The case of the House of Lords is a little different in that it is more obviously effective and therefore far more offensive in its anachronism. At the moment it is a body of men and women who are much wiser than most of us (even more so than the House of Commons) and whose proceedings are rendered the more eccentric by the presence of some mostly quite amusing aristo-

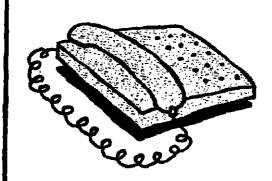
crats of varying vintage.

Taken together (and the aristocrats are not often a big presence), the Lords is mostly rural and traditionalist: it resists anything that damages conventional social mores, and anything that looks like hurting poor people. So that's more or less all right, then. The Lords is only likely to be consistently and seriously undemocratic if the country swings very far leftward, which isn't likely. The Lords are out of step on country pursuits such as hunting, but generally speak out for trees and bedges and suchlike which don't have votes, and do so in a way which

many people regard as quite sound. The main possible reform of the House of Lords would weaken the role of hereditary peers and perhaps usher in the election of new members. This would make the Lords more democratic, but at the risk of making it too like the House of Commons to be a useful corrective to the plebeian house. It also risks conferring a dangerous legitimacy on the upper house, which would tempt them too seriously to mess about with the work of the lower house, in other words, it would risk dreary paralysis because it would introduce a new check, a difficult balance,

against the power of the Commons. An impotent and impressive House of Lords which occasionally produces moments of solid insight and high comedy, and thus maintains the ability to shame (rather than bully) everyone else in the system with a flash of compassion or of heartfelt reaction, is far preferable to any new system for a second chamber which would be duller and possibly less effective.





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Share spotlight

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Hangover on Wall Street gives investors the jitters

FTSE 100 4057.4 - **61.1 FTSE 250** 4469.4 -21.0 Footsie forecasts the stock FTSE 350 market was hit by an acute at-2017.9 - 25.9 ack of the jitters on its first day of 1997 with Footsie crashing SEAQ VOLUME 61.1 points to 4,057.4p. New York, demonstrating its 459.2m shares. 27.865 bargains

power as the world's biggest market, did the damage. On New Year's Eve it crashed 101.1 points and remained in ragged retreat while London was open yesterday.

After a merry festive run.

achieved on low trading turnover, it could be argued the market was ripe for a correction and a little old-fashioned profit-taking. Even so the brave souls

forecasting a rip-roaring year have had an uncomfortable time as what was only a relatively modest weakness on Wall Street drew attention to

months set the pattern for the sum up the lacklustre state of

What a dismal start to the rest of the year. Although such a philosophy is often too simplistic the importance of senoverlooked by forecasters and there is little doubt that 1997's opening, if modest, hiccup has at least touched the foundation on which many an optimistic

forecast was built. Over the holiday season such brutal fundamentals as higher interest rates, sterling's strength and the uncertainty of the general election were largely ignored. The market seemed content to dwell on the deluge of new year share tips and allow a little windowdressing by fund managers to

influence its direction. Only six Footsie stocks managed to make progress. Best of the bunch the pedestrian National Grid which managed a 2p gain to 197.5p. The appearance of such a dull stock 'any believe the first few in pole position seemed to to 1,875p, yet another peak.



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

International was the undisputed leader of the FTSE 250 index. The healthcare group, which has moved ahead strongly over the holiday season, bounced another 45p to 865p. ML Laboratories, which since hitting 468.5p in February, managed to stir itself into a 7p gain to 210.5p.

In the bleak conditions some of the third-liners enjoyed intriguing runs. Lanica Trust, the Andrew Regan vehicle, started 1997 as it had finished last year - in rampant The company's spectacular

for a comeback. It has indulged in a buy-back

progress has been achieved against a background of little information. It has done a mail order deal with the NAAFI and is set, so the rumour mill proclaims, to link with Littlewoods on the mail order front. In the meantime it is looking increasingly hard to justify a surge from 58p since Mr Re-gan, who had limited success with his earlier involvement, Hobsons, arrived in the au-

Shoprite, once a discount food retailer, was another attracting attention. The shares improved 3.25p to 24p. The market has for long suspected the group, shattered by the distressed sale of its once high-flying food chain, was preparing promote the take over. The

of preference shares and last month returned to the black with a half-year profit of £958,000. The group still has car dealerships and retail and property interest on the Isle of Man. With gearing down to 48 per cent it could, some suspect, be preparing the ground for an ambitious strike.

Capital Shopping shaded 2p to 364p. There is persistent market speculation it plans to swoop on Imry, the property arm of Barclays, the banking group. The company raised £203m through a rights issue in November and the market suspects the cash call was to provide ammunition for the

Barclays would also most certainly require a large cash element in any Imry sale and Capital should be in a position to provide sufficient cash to

year's first newcomer, Sanctuary Music, fell victim to the low key atmosphere, managing a downbeat 65.5p from its 65p

cations group, however, shrugged off the new year gloom gaining 13p to 188.5p. It was floated last month at

Northern Leisure, a dis-

cotheque group, topped 200p before settling at 199.5p, up 7.5p. The shares have been strong following a Collins Stewart suggestion the shares could double in the next three

The stockbroker said profits this year could hit £8m (£5.5m) and then move to £10.9m.

It suggests Northern is get-ting to the size "whereby it repacquisition target for a larger

The Independent Index

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

11.00 4092.9 down 25.6

Share Price Data

Taking Stock

Premiere, running employ ment agencies, is set to double profits, believes researcher Hardman & Co. It expects last year's profits to come out at £783,000 and then move to nearly £1.5m in 1998. Since coming to market at 133p in the summer Premiere has made one signifi-cant acquisition. At 137.5p Hardman suggests the shares are on the lowest prospective

group which owns building ... contractor Sir Robert McAlpine, plans to spend £6m buying in 11.6 per cent of its capital at 400p a share and then bid 400p for the remaining capital. The buy-in involves the McAlpine family

shares jumped 155p to 400p.

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business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER US output figures unnerve markets

Diane Coyle and Tom Stevenson

E INDEPENDENT

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The stock market woke up with a thumping hangover yesterday as unexpectedly strong eco-nomic data from the US brought the FTSE100's festive run to an abrupt close. The index of leading shares finished the first trading session of 1997 61.1 points lower than New Year's Eve's all-time high as early afternoon gyrations on Wall Street sent dealers scurrying for

cover in very thin trading. 'America's manufacturing industry boomed in December, according to the first economic figures of 1997. The National Association of Purchasing Managers' index of activity jumped compared with the previous month. More worryingly. the prices index, one of the fig-ures closely scrutinised by Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, increased.

"There is a sense that inflation is building in the pipeline." York.

said Christo-pher Low, an unonth, according to the Halifax building analyst at society. A 1.2 per cent jump during the HSBC Mar- month took the annual house price inflakets in New tion rate to 8.4 per cent, writes Diane Covle. "The The annual increase was in line with figfinancial ures published by the Nationwide last week, markets will although it reported a small decline in begin specuprices during December. lating about

a policy tightening, and interest rates will have to rise in deference," he

The activity index rose to 54 from 52.7 in November. Its market itself regained its comprices component surged from 45.9 to 51.5, above the water-shed between falling and rising prices and the highest level

Even before the New York market opened, London had already struggled to maintain the poise of the holiday season, with dealers casting one eye back to Wall Street's 100 point fall on New Year's Eve and one forward to the expected US economic data. After clawing back

an early 40 point fall, the purchasing managers index knocked it afresh and the market had closed before the US

"UK shares are more sensitive to U.S. rates than to UK rates." said Robert Buckland, equity strategist at HSBC James Capel. "I think we'll have a bumpy ride in the first quarter. but more because of U.S. rates than because of any political noise the UK elections will pro-

Most traders remained sanguine about prospects for the

little changed in the coming year," yesterday's report said. However, it admitted it had underestimated the extent of the recovery in 1996. Economists increasingly believe the rise in

fears of another increase in mortgage rates

would prevent the market from overheat-

ing. "House price inflation should remain

tin Lupton, head of trading at Kleinwort Benson said: "This might slow investment in UK shares through next week, but the fundamentals remain good here and this market will gather steam. There's a lot of value in this market."

Hardest hit by the sell-off were companies that depend on the US economy for a large proportion of their sales such as Glaxo Wellcome, Smithkline Beecham and BTR. The persistent strength of the pound compounded exporters problems and BP and Shell, big dol-lar earners, led the FTSE100

The Halifax insisted yesterday that house prices this year could be much yesterday pointed greater than previously expected. City ex- to better properts expect an increase of 10 per cent, as spects this year opposed to the 7-8 per cent forecasts from than any time mortgage lenders. Even though higher since the late mortgage rates are likely, the cost of bor- 1980s. rowing would still remain near its lowest since the mid-1960s. Pent-up demand to activity expandmove home is expected to fuel the market. ed in December

> Although few Wall Street analysts expect the Fed to raise its key interest rate as early as the next policy meeting at the beginning of February, many think the move will come before too many months pass. The prospect of an increase in interest rates drew closer in the

The recovery in British manufacturing faltered last month because of the strong pound. But the UK Purchasing Managers' survey suggested that industry will soon resume its strong upward trend.

A separate survey of the con-

Manufacturing but at the slowest pace since Au-

gust, the monthly survey of purchasing managers reported. A reduction in stocks to meet year-end inventory targets

reduced output growth. City economists thought the news would allow Kenneth Clarke to stave off the next rise in the cost of borrowing until February. "Interest rates should be left on hold until the extent of the recovery is clearer," said Simon Briscoe at investment bank Nikko.

However, the survey did not point to alarming weakness in industry. "If I were the Chancellor, I'd use this in evidence. struction industry published But the slowdown is no more ported materials declined.

three-week month, and I would be very surprised if the upward trend did not resume," said Peter Thomson, director general of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply which compiles the report.

The headline index fell to 52.5, down from 54.2 but safely above the "boom and bust" dividing line of 50. Growth in new orders declined slightly but remained robust. Although the stronger pound had some impact on manufacturers of consumer goods, overseas demand for capital goods re-

mained strong. The real slowdown came in output and stocks. Stocks of both purchases and finished goods declined sharply. The CIPS said this reflected deliberate destocking to meet end of year targets. On the other hand employment rose for the fifth month running and the prices manufacturers paid for im-

Pension funds beat big markets

Magnus Grimond

The average UK pension fund beat the rise in nearly all the big world stock markets last year but only just. Most would have been better keeping their clients money at home.

The inflation-beating 11.3 per cent rise in pension fund assets was still far short of the 16.0 per cent return from the FT All Share index of UK equities. This despite a rare year when fund managers outperformed the domestic index with their UK equity portfolios, recording an

average 17 per cent growth. George Urquhart of the WM Company, the pension fund performance measurement group which produced the figures, said the last time pension funds outperformed was in 1992. "Taken over the last 10 years, the average UK pension fund underperformed the index by 0.5 per cent per annum. But the bulk of that is dealing ex-

Even so, his colleague, WM director Peter Warrington, remained determinedly opti-

"Historically active managers have, on occasion, underperformed the index. But in 1996 they have reaped handsome dividends by avoiding the poorer performing stocks in the FTSE 100 index", he said. Reflecting their more limited exposure to property and more active management, smaller funds outdid their larger bretheren by 0.5 per cent.

Mr Warrington highlighted the real 9 per cent average re-turn over last year's inflation figure of around 2 per cent as good news for pensioners and companies. It easily beat the 2 to 3 per cent real growth regarded as a good long-term return by actuaries, he said, and meant many companies could continue with pension contribution holidays.

However, institutions are turning more bearish. WM said many have taken profits in the rising markets and kept the money in cash, which has risen from 4.5 per cent to 5.8 per cent of average portfolios. Mr Warrington said this supported the widespread belief that major markets, particularly the US and UK, are overvalued.

The WM survey covered groups accounting for around three-quarters of UK pension fund assets, some 1,400 funds with total assets of £400m. Collectively, the industry is esti-mated to represent a little under a third of the whole UK stock market, just behind the life insurance companies with somewhat over a third.

The figure for UK equities compares with a 23.8 per cent return in 1995 and an 18.9 per cent average return over the past 20 years.

Investment in the domestic market has remained largely static at 53.8 per cent of portfolios

Ford warns over UK sales slide

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

Ford has issued dire warnings about the future of the company in the UK amid sliding market share and a threat to the Halewood plant on Merseyside, according to internal minutes.

At a meeting with union leaders last month senior management revealed the depths of their concern about the profitability of Ford of Britain which has incurred a loss of \$2.9bn over the last seven years.

Bob Hill, personnel director,

... While the market for cars and light vehicles has improved during the last year, Ford has been steadily losing share," he told them.

The situation was the same for the European operation, but Mr. Hill was at pains to emphasise that it was the UK that was faring "worst of all".

Speaking to representatives of white collar staff, Mr Hill singled out the Escort as the source of most anxiety. Market share of the car - which is: made at Halewood, Saarlouis and Cologne had plummeted from 10.8 to 6 per cent.

The vehicle's lack-lustre performance in the market place was putting a "heavy strain" on Ford Europe, which is thought to be heading for a £1bn loss this year, and was a big contributor to the deficit in Britain.

replacement, codenamed the

CW170, at one of the plants only. According to the minutes Mr Hill pointed to the cost involved in "dual and triple sourc-

ing of models across Europe".

Mr Hill was said to be "not optimistic" about the future of the company but said that he would be fighting "as hard as anyone" to ensure that the CW170 was built at Halewood. A decision on the new Escort would be made late in January or early February, the minutes reveal.

Ford's personnel director gave a number of reasons for confirmed that market share Ford's poor performance. had dropped below 20 per cent There were "too many supplifor the first time from a high of ers chasing too few customers" 26 per cent in the 1980s. ers chasing too few customers and there was "global overcapacity" of nearly 20 million vehicles and rising.

The company's fixed costs were also higher than their competitors, particularly in product design. "Flattening of prices in the market have all but removed any profitability from cars and light vehicles," he said.

At the meeting, union leaders reminded Mr Hill that desoite his pessimistic prognosis, they would not tolerate any compulsory redundancies.

Tony Woodley, national officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which represents most of the manual workers at Ford, thought it unlikely that management would take the manufacture of the Escort away from Halewood.

He commented: "It would be politically and industrially unacceptable if they manufac-Ford wants to manufacture its tured the Escort replacement elsewhere.



Two Four Sports has beaten the recently-floated Brands Hatch Leisure to acquire a 25-year lease over the Donington Park motor

racing circuit and exhibition centre in a £40m deal. Two Four, which has run Donington Park since 1986, acquired the lease from Tom buying it in 1971. The company,

Wheatcroft, the property developer who reinstated racing at the then derelict track near Derby after

part-owned by Robert Feamall, one of Mr Wheatcroft's former associates, will spend £3m upgrading the circuit.

'Telegraph' pensions frozen as profits fall

Mathew Horsman

Media Editor

The Telegraph Group, publishers of the Telegraph and the Sunday Telegraph, has determined that it cannot meet increases to pensions payable to retired employees, following disappointing profits in 1996. in past years, the group has made what it terms "ex-gratia"

payments to pensioners under

a plan set up before Conrad Black, the Canadian media baron, bought a stake in the titles in 1986. The payments had been aimed at keeping pension cheques in line with inflation. The original pension plan

had been non-contributable for employees, and subsequent payments topped up by the company were seen as a moral rather than a legal requirement. In a letter addressed to pen-

sioners, and sent just two days before Christmas, Jeremy Deedes, the managing director. wrote: "The company has had a reasonable but not particularly good year. Indeed, its trading profit has fallen short of the 1996 budget because of the in-

tensive competition." The letter was seen by pensioners last night as a concession from the Telegraph that competition from the Times,

GEC begins clear-out

Rupert Murdoch's flagship quality daily, had taken its toll. Mr Murdoch's News International has continued a selective price war in the quality market, particularly through a cut-rate price for Monday editions and

a lower-than-average cover price for the rest of the week. Mr Deedes also told pensioners that an ex-grava payment for 1996 would have had "an adverse impact on the share

those shareholders who have already paid the heavy cost of privatising the Telegraph". The letter was seen by insiders as a reference to the buyout of minority shareholders last year

price of the parent company on

overseas stock exchanges, and

was judged an unfair taxation of

by Mr Black. Mr Deedes told pensioners that the company would look again at the matter of pension increases in 1997. | during the past year.

Guardian spikes plan to float non-core holdings

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

The Guardian Media Group has ruled out the flotation of its non-core holdings, despite strong support for the plan from some members of the board.

The decision, reached in recent weeks, ends several months of discussion over a plan to sell a stake in the company's Auto Trader title and other publications to the public. The float proceeds would have been used to support the core newspaper

Hong Kong

titles, the Guardian and the loss-

making Observer. "The view was taken that the non-core assets were cash cows, and that they would be very useful to the group," a senior Guardian source said last night.

The prospect of a flotation, first revealed in The Independent in October, had been viewed by some board members as the best way to meet the rising costs of the Observer.

Meanwhile, the Canary Wharf bomb took its toll on interim results at the company, which set aside a whopping

Source: FT Information

£14.4m to cover the costs of shifting its printing from the damaged South Quay site to West Ferry Printers. The amount is believed to cover the costs of redundancies at the former printing site, as well as the costs of installing new colour and insertion machinery.

Before the exceptional charges, pre-tax earnings were ahead 41 per cent to £17.9m, despite a newsprint bill 24 per cent higher at £5.5m for the sixmonth period. Factoring in the costs of the South Quay move, pre-tax profits were £1.8m.

with £80m Siebe sale Michael Harrison

GEC's new chief executive. George Simpson, yesterday be-gan the promised clearance sale of its unwanted industrial businesses by announcing the £80m disposal of its automotation systems division to the industrial controls group Siebe.

Satchwell Controls, based in Slough, Berkshire, employs just over 1,000 and is Britain's biggest manufacturer and installer of automation systems for industrial and commercial buildings. Siebe is acquiring

debt. Last year it made oper-

In total the businesses being disposed of have sales of £400m - less than 3 per cent of group turnover. Other likely candidates for sale include GEC's wire and cables business and office equipment subsidiary.

ating profits of £4.9m on sales

However, Mr Simpson, who took over from Lord Weinstock last September, is thought to have decided against selling off GEC's medical systems and

semiconductor divisions and the business for cash and as-suming its small amount of semiconductor divisions and its 50 per cent stake in the Creda and Hotpoint consumer electronics business.

The disposal programme, part of a fundamental strategic review of all the group's operations and management struc-ture, was outlined in December alongside GEC's interims re-

GEC has taken a one-off charge of £160m to cover costs associated with the programme but none of this has been used in connection with the Satchwell

IN BRIEF

 Most personal pensions are a rip-off, according to research Which? magazine, the consumer magazine published today. Af-ter analysing more than 100 pensions and rating them on flexibility, charges, portability and their performance, Which? concluded that most personal pensions are too complex, too inflexible and too expensive. It said the government should start afresh with its legislation and recommended Peps as a good model for simpler pension plans. Which? ranked personal pensions from Colonial Direct, Equitable Life, Gartmore and M&G as among the "best buys". Among the "worst buys" are Albany Life, Bar-clays Life, Lincoln National, Scottish Equitable and United Friendly. "Take out one of the worse pensions and your retirement income could be halved," said Which?

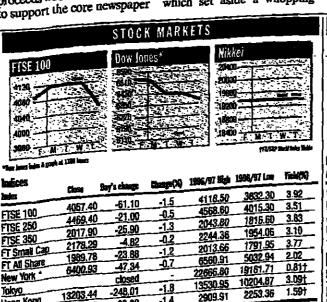
 The four partners in Airbus Industrie meet in Toulouse today in a bid to reach agreement on converting the aircraft manufacturer into a fully commercial enterprise. The partners, among them British Aerospace with a 20 per cent stake, had intended to sign a binding memorandum of understanding by Christmas, paying the way for a changeover in 1999. But agreement has been held up by a dispute over the structure of the new company and the extent of its powers.

 The Association of British Insurers (ABI) has called on the Hampel Committee on corporate governance to refine the performance related pay criteria for directors. The ABI also suggests that disclosure of the relevant parts of a director's remuneration package could be made in a "more readily identifiable way". The ABI says it is "unfortunate" that a number of companies have used the Greenbury recommendations to give long-term incentive plans (L-tips) in additional to existing remuneration and incentive schemes. The ABI makes its comments in written evidence to the committee.

 McDonald's Restaurants, owners of the famous hamburger chain, is to create 5.000 new jobs in the UK by opening more than 100 new outlets. The company said the £116m investment would lead to full and part-time jobs distributed evenly across the various regions of the country.

 Vodafone's subscriber base grew by more than 20 per cent last year with the addition of more than 468,000 net new subscribers. In the last quarter, more than 332,000 subscribers were connected in the UK, producing over 146,000 net new subscribers.

· Goldsmiths Group, the jewellers' chain, said sales in the four weeks to 28 December rose 12.4 per cent on the year, an early indication UK retailers did well in the peak shopping season. Goldsmiths expects results to 1 February "in line with expectations"

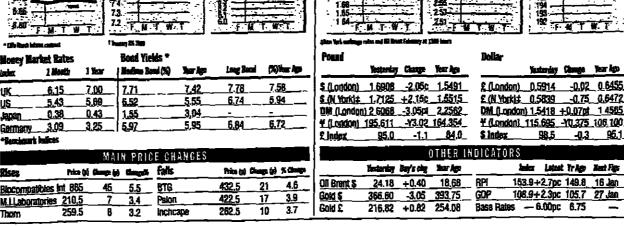


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CURRENCIES



1997: A preview of the year ahead fren One thing at least can be set to



EXPITAL MARKE

by Hamish McRae

predicted with some certainty for 1997 – that there will be a general election in Britain before mid-year. The rest is as unpredictable as ever. Is Wall Street's five-year bull market about to come to an end? Is sterling set to become a safe haven currency? What's going to happen to those hated privatised utilities? Who's going to takeover whom? What sort of economy can the next government look forward to? Who's going to make a splash in 1997? The Independent's business writers attempt to provide some answers.

Higher rates needn't scare investors

This will be the year of rising interest rates. Short-term rates will rise swiftly in the UK, more to lean against strong economic growth as one-off thousts (from things like the building soslowly in the US and - by the end of 1997 - also begin to rise add to strong under ying deacross continental Europe. The mand.
key test for financial markets The result will be strong preswill be to see how confidently investors can look beyond this he may be, to get interest rates cyclical rise and discern the up fast. The quicker he rethen it will be a bumpy year for rates, but a sharp rise in short both bonds and currencies: if they can take the long view then the sunlit uplands still beckon. It will be interesting to view the year from Britain. That is not because what happens to UK domestic markets has much influence on the rest of the world. at or close to 7 per cent. Any-It doesn't. The tall does not wag the dog. Rather it is because the upturn in interest rates will happen here first. It will happen one more quarter point rise bebecause the new government, whoever is running it, will have other three through the in the final quarter of last year

sure on the Chancellor, whoever rates will inevitably make sterling more attractive. So sterling should remain strong too. How high will short-term rates go and how much effect will this have on the pound? UK base rates will probably end the year one who tries to call the exact timing of the rises will be wrong, but a plausible profile will be fore the election and then an-

ciety conversions to plasatus)

in the interest rate cycle? Probably not till well into 1998. Impact on gilts? The key here will be the attitude of the next longer-term downward trend. If sponds, the less damage there Chancellor. If Labour does get feetly possible that sterling will they are frightened by the rise will be to long-term interest in, the first Budget of the new government will be scrutinised for any use of mirrors to make the figures look better. My guess is that come what may, gilts will have a difficult year, but if there is the prospect of tighter fiscal policy under Labour than under the Tories, then come 1998 the prospects will look much brighter.

The impact on the pound? Well, the problem here is that a lot of that impact is already in the market: sterling shot up

summer and autumn. The peak and from being clearly underin the interest rate cycle? Probable is now close to its underlying purchasing power parity. Of course currencies can, and do, overshoot. It is perbecome too strong during the course of this year. In any case there are two sides to the currency equation and whatever happens to the pound will be determined by what happens to the dollar and/or the German mark. A rational expectation would be for sterling to continue to strengthen through the early part of this year but for that rise to peak by mid-year. But the forex markets are not noted for their reason, and in any case, with the preparations for EMU they will have bigger fish to fry. is ended. As the graph shows

market for the world, there will also be a rise in interest rates. The Federal Reserve has its next policy meeting in early February by which stage it will be clear how sustained the present acceleration is growth is likely to be. The bigger question will be later in the year; will the long expansion in the US come to an end of its own accord or will there have to be several riss in tales to choke it off. Mainstream expectation: a couple of further rises in US rates during the course of this year. viding the Fed does act in Feb-

this is a solid long-term trend. Now at some stage that will end once it becomes clear that the downward trend in inflation cannot proceed any further. But this year I think we just see a pause on that downward path. The dollar? Probably some more strength, as the gradual, patchy recovery continues. But the main influence on the dollar will be what happens to the

European currencies. If the will not happen until well into euro is going to be a weak currency, as now seems more and more likely, then the dollar's safe haven status will be enhanced. If plans for the EMU fall to bits - maybe not likely but certainly possible - then expect the mark to resume its status as the world's "best" currency. And so to continental markets.

Here the rise in interest rates

the autumn, maybe not till Bond markets will take courage

struggle. The single biggest question for bonds and currencies is whether the long-term downward trend

of inflation really solid? I think it is. If so, expect a stormy year

ruary there need be no fall-out in the bond market, but at best bond yields will move sideways. But that does not mean that the 15 year long-term downward trend of bond yields, in the US as well as in continental Europe,

cream off any further excesses.

To do much more would need

primary legislation, a scare

commodity for any new gov-

sector will experience labour

pains of its own as the gas and

electricity industries prepare

for the birth of full competition

in their domestic markets from

1998. Expect more fireworks in

the south of England as the gas

Mr Blair or not, the energy

Predictability gives way to year of living dangerously

leading economist summed up 1996 in one of the year-end summaries now spilling out of the City investment banks.

It certainly looks as though the results of The Independent's annual Golden Guru award for the best economic forecast, due at the end of January, will be unusually close. The past year has brought few surprises. But 1997 is going to be a year

of unusual uncertainty about the outlook for the UK economy. For starters, there will be a lot of politics around. The election campaign will affect business, investor and consumer behaviour for the next few months. It will cast a shadow over share prices and sterling.
Then if, as still looks likely,

Labour wins, the economy will move into uncharted waters. It is obvious that the measures introduced by Gordon Brown will be more like Kenneth Clarke's policies than Denis Healey's two decades ago, but there are still big unknowns. What are New Labour's tax plans? Will the Bank of England get more influence over inter-

est rate decisions? Looking beyond the blinkers of UK politics, there is more uncertainty out in the world in the coming year. Take two examples: share prices on Wall Street: and growth on the Continent. Opinions could not be more divided about where the US stock market is heading -Wall Street pundits are predicting either a crash or another vear of double-digit growth in

ECONOMICS by Diane Coyle

shares. Whichever it is, London is likely to follow suit. Although the links between the stock market and the economy are indirect, a sharp fall - or rise - in share prices would influence investment and consumer confi-

There is an almost equally deep division of opinion over the outlook for the Continental economies, the main market for British exports. The mainstream consensus is that their struggle to qualify for the single currency will not keep growth so subdued for a second year running.

Yet there are plenty of Euroefforts of governments on the Continent to reduce their budget deficits to meet the Maastricht criteria will make the next 12 months just as sluggish as the past year. If they are right, the strong pound will guarantee that this spills over into British exports and growth.

The uncertainties in the wider world and in the world of politics amplify the normal sorts of risks attached to economic forecasts. Forecasts for the UK this year have something for everyone. According to the summary of forecasts compiled by the Treasury, pre-dictions for GDP growth range from 2.8 per cent to 4.3 per cent, and for the target measure of inflation from 1.8 per cent to 4 per cent. Economists see the number of unemployment benefit claimants anywhere between 1.5 million and 2 million (the current level), and base rates between 5.75 and

8.25 per cent. Underlying these divergent predictions lie two classes of soothsayers, divided by their view about whether the economy lies in the hands of saints or sinners. Either the flexible labour market has made inflationary wage claims a thing of the past, consumers have learnt their lesson from the late-1980s boom and bust and inflation is defunct. Or not. 1997 could test

these theories. Professor Patrick Minford of Liverpool University is firmly of the view that the economy has plenty of unused capacity,

Forec	asts of t	he UK econo	my 1997
Highest Lowest Average Treasury	GDP % 4.3 2.8 3.5 3.5	Target RPI % 4.0 1.8 2.9 2.5	Base rate % 8.25 5.75 7.0 n/a

Britain's export markets are weak, and without big cuts in interest rates or taxes GDP growth in 1997 will be disappointing. Job insecurity will keep pay rises down even if unemployment falls much fur-

ther, he predicts. "If I were a Tory Chancellor who had just had a nerve-rack-ing 18 months of relative stagnation, I would welcome the resurgence of growth in the late summer with open arms and I would nurture it," he concludes.

At the other end of the range

lie some of the City economists who see haunting parallels between the late 1980s and the late 1990s, particularly in consumer behaviour. For example, Kevin Gardiner at investment bank Morgan Stanley argues that real wages are rising, more people have jobs, consumer debt-income ratios are low and the windfall of building society share hand-outs and income tax cuts will stimulate spending. Inflation-adjusted spending power, taking account of taxes and mortgages, is 10 per cent higher than a year ago, and will rise faster during 1997. Like the Bank of England, he sees a classic demand-led, inflationary

recovery on the horizon. There is a lot of anecdotal evidence to support this outlook, in house prices and high street spending, in falling unemployment and disappointing retail price figures. Although few experts really believe that the UK economy is poised for a re-run of the last boom, none of them expected it last

Few windfalls ahead in period of consolidation

industry - to take but one example half the electricity sector disappeared into American hands - then 1997 promises to be doubly so.

In no particular order we can expect to see further consolidation in the telecommunications industry, increased merger activity among Europe's defence and aerospace companies and a mopping-up operation to take control of the two regional electricity companies still in independent ownership.

In the motor industry D-Day looms for Rover for this is surely the year when its German owners BMW either make their British acquisition pay off or engage in a radical re-think. Along the way, British Gas intends to do the splits but whether many more decide to follow suit after the disaster of the Hanson demerger must be open to question.

Of course the biggest ques-tion and the biggest "if" of all for industry is whether it will be operating under a new Government by the middle of the year. If it is, then there can be no question but that the privatised utilities will dominate the industrial year - not because of merger mania but because of Labour's promised windfall tax. Labour has refused to reveal

how much the tax will raise (City estimates range from £5bn to £10bn) and who it will hit until after the election and after consultation with the regulators. Clearly the privatised electricity and water industries are

If 1996 was an eventful year for line. The big fight will be over a second tier of "non-utility" privatisations, including British Telecom and BAA, which have both been lobbying hard to escape the shadow chancellor Gordon Brown's net. Ironically, it is precisely these kinds of companies which can afford to pay

the most. Assuming a Labour government moves quickly to put the tax on the statue books, the rest of the year could be taken up with complex legal arguments as the utilities seek to ambush

liberalisation trials spread out across a wider area. Expect also further slippage in the tim-

INDUSTRY by Chris Godsmark and Michael Harrison

the measure. Tony Blair will also face vociferous behind-thescenes lobbying by utilities taken over since privatisation by US companies. Dieter Helm, director of Oxford Economic Research Associates and a utility expert believes US lobbying could scupper the tax altogether: "If the Americans bring down the windfall tax by lobbying President Clinton, this could do a lot of damage to Labour. It would mean the party would put its energy into wholesale regulatory reform."

Individual regulators like Ian Byatt at Ofwat would stay, apparently, though boards of nonexecutives would be created to back them up. The price cap formula used to regulate the utiling of full competition in the domestic electricity market. The deadline has already slipped six months to the right and further delays look inevitable as the Recs drag their feet.

Whoever wins the election, more power is likely to drift towards the regulators. A landmark court victory just before Christmas gave Don Cruick-shank, the telecommunications industry regulator, unique powers to ban behaviour by BT which he deems anti-competitive. It would be surprising if his fellow regulators weren't thinking along similar lines for the industries they police.

A super-charged Mr Cruick-shank is just one of the challenges facing BT this year. Its ities would be supplemented by other main task will be to secure most directly in the firing a sliding scale tax designed to approval for the £35bn merger

US telecoms operator. Bet on the alliance gaining regulatory blessing but bet also that AT&T will not take the competitive threat lying down. Will this be the year that the colossus of the US telecoms industry makes a decisive move into British territory? At one stage it looked as if AT&T might use Energis, the telecoms business put up for sale by the National Grid, as a platform. But the latest indications are that it has dropped out

of the bidding. Enter Deutsche Telekom? While AT&T ponders, the cable industry is reforming under the banner of Cable & Wireless Communications and will pose an increased threat in the telephony market. Watch out too for Ionica, the radio-based tele-

coms group.

And what of those mature industries as we politely like to call them? Well, the betting must be on BMW grasping the nettle once and for all at Rover and the result could be painful for

ton en

Midlands car workers. Meanwhile the American fad for defence mergers looks like crossing the Atlantic British Aerospace has been doing its bit to drag the rest of Europe into an all-embracing military and civil aerospace alliance. But is this the year when it finally consummates the daddy of all defence mergers - a marriage with GEC?

The timing looks good and in George Simpson, GEC may have the chief executive to pull off a deal, Cometh the hour.

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frenzy is all set to continue Media in Britain had a mega-1996, and all the signs point to another year of wheeler-dealer frenzy. Moreover, at least three events in 1997 - the launch of Channel 5, the birth of digital television and further consoli-dation in the ITV sector could transform the media landscape out of all recognition. But before looking at the big-league changes, it might be worth considering a few of the

murkier prospects for the sector which, while less dramatic. could have profound implications for many companies.

There will be, for instance, moves toward a wholesale reform of advertising sales at

ITV, as the big companies which control the commercial market for Channel 3 seek an end to the controversial "average station price" currently used to sell advertising time. The preferred option is something like "spot" pricing, where an advertiser pays a premium to get its message into a specific time slot. The change might be worth as much as £100m more a year for ITV, a prospect that most investors have not yet factored in.

But there are also going to be negative changes for ITV, if not in 1997 then in 1998, when the Government will begin to phase out the controversial payments made by Channel 4 to ITV under the so-called "safety net" arrangements. These are worth about £90m this year.

Some ITV companies might lessen the blow by seeking to ne-

THE MEDIA

by Mathew Horsman

Wheeler-dealer

Still on TV, Channel 4 could find itself under pressure this coming year. Privatisation may have been put off, following a successful campaign by the chief executive, Michael Grade, to extol the public service mandate of the fourth channel. But there will be further questions about "public service" if Mr Grade continues to spend his hundreds of millions of pounds in advertising money on buying yet more Hollywood sitcoms and

But the immediate threat to Channel 4 (and ITV for that matter) is the launch of Britain's last "free" television service, Channel 5, which is expected to be on air by the end of March. The new channel will cost its backers pots of money - at least £180m just to retune millions of VCRs up and down the country, a condition of the licence but it will pay back in spades. With a potential audience of 80 per cent of UK homes, and nearer 90 per cent when you count households able to receive the signal via cable or satellite, Channel 5 will be a near-national service. It will probably lead to a growth in the overall advertising pie, but a

large part of its estimated rev-

they have a right to do from the end of 1997. least, that will put some downward pressure on the wildly in ward pressure on the wildly inflated prices being charged per minute for commercial advertising, which rose by about 10 per cent (7 per cent in real terms) in 1996.

Meanwhile, consolidation of ITV will be on the agenda, even if the speed (or slowness) with which it occurs could surprise people. Yorkshire-Tyne Tees (to Granada), HTV (to United News & Media) and Grampian (to Scottish Television) are the most likely acquisitions. But in each case, the buyers don't like the high prices they would have to pay, and could decide to wait until much later to pounce.

be an ITV sector dominated by just two or three companies, able for the first time to present a common front as a truly national network. The implications for the current structure of ITV, with its federal vocation and its much-maligned Network Centre, will be radical. Indeed, there may not be a Network Centre at all, if some of the more reform-minded of the ITV barons get their way.

The upshot, in any event, will

A general reform of ITV won't come a moment too soon, given the huge challenges that the launch of digital television will present. BSkyB, Rupert gotiate lower licence fee pay-ments to the Treasury, which channels 3 and 4. At the very wants to introduce 200 channels



Thinking big: Rupert Murdoch wants to introduce 200 channels of TV programming by the end of 1997

of TV programming and interactive services by the end of 1997. Digital terrestrial television will come a year later, while cable hasn't yet made up its collective mind. The huge fragmentation of the marketplace is bound to hurt traditional broadcasters, unless they themselves manage to secure a role in the digital age. So far, the only ITV companies that appear to

be serious about digital are

Michael Green's Carlton

licence to operate a digital terrestrial service) and Granada, which has formed a joint venture with BSkyB to launch pay-

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To make matters more complicated for the commercial layers, the BBC has rushed headlong into the digital age, having negotiated a joint venture agreement with US-controlled Flextech to launch pay-TV channels. These will compete directly with the pro-(which is bidding for a multiplex grammes of commercial broad-

casters, and could lead the digital field. After all, the BBC, despite its reputation for bureaucratic sclerosis, makes the best TV programming in Britain and - crucial in a crowded marketplace - has the best-

known brand. Elsewhere in the media, you can expect a few special situations to develop. Pearson will be in the news, as it struggles to agree a new strategy that could see a mammoth corporate re-

panies will reap the benefits of lower newsprint prices, unless they decide to add new sections to the already groaning products that thump on coffee tables of a Saturday or Sunday. Of the main newspaper groups, both United News & Media and Mirror Group (which owns 46

bound to be the target of a bid, weighted.

per cent of The Independent)

should see operating margins

and probably an agreed one. Favourites include MCA, the film and music giant controlled by drinks company Seagram, and the perennial predators. Disney and Bertelsmann.

Photograph: Reuters

Without a doubt, the media business, which has outperformed most other industries in the past five years, is set for another year of above-average growth. The uncertainties are EMI, the music arm of the rife, of course, but it would be now demerged Thorn-EMI, is no bad thing to stay over-

Focus on good quality shares and you won't go too far wrong

The maturity of the current bull market in equities was brought home on New Year's Eve when a British Gas engineer, a pro-pos of nothing, least of all the heating he had come to fix, began expounding his investment philosophy. His thoughts were a timely reminder of the old adage about shoe-shine boys on Wall Street - when the gas man cometh with share tips a crash must surely be around the

His enthusiasm for shares brought to mind another, no doubt apocryphal, tale from 1929 when a lift-boy at JP Morgan plucked up the courage to ask the great man himself what he thought the market would do that day. "It will fluctuate, boy. it will fluctuate," was the banker's considered response.

Morgan's message was that a proper investor, as opposed to the speculator he rightly assumed the boy had become, tried not to worry about the state of the stock market but focused on good quality individual shares. Anyone who lived through the bear market of the early 1970s, however, knows that not even the best shares can

shrug off a determined self-off. Between the spring of 1972 and the end of 1974, the stock market lost almost three quarters of its value, so it is no wonder at the end of a year in which the Dow Jones index rose by 27 per cent, dragging the London market up on its coat-tails, that it is not just gas engineers spinning out their overtime who fret about the direction of the mar-

by Tom Stevenson

To put things in perspective, if the London market were to stage a re-run of the early 1970s, the FTSE 100 index which closed 1996 at a record high of 4118.5, would bottom out shortly before the millennium celebrations at a low of 1.112.0. If bull markets are said to climb a wall of worry, they don't get much steeper than

In an election year when the first change of government in 18 years looks probable, with investors struggling to acclimatise themselves to an economy which threatens to have discovered steady growth without inflation, and with stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic flirting with record highs, it is no surprise that the City is sharply divided on the future direction of share prices.

The bear argument is essen tially this: Wall Street is grossly overvalued on a number of measures - according to one, the aggregate value of stock market quoted companies is now for the first time ever greater than the total US gross domestic product. As a result, the Dow will almost certainly experience a sharp correction sometime soon and, while London is not so pricy on fundamental measures, the two markets fortunes are so closely entwined that a fall in the US

Talk to Smith New Court's Andrew Smithers, one of the Square Mile's dourest Jeremiahs, and he will paint you a convincing apocalyptic vision of an overheating UK economy, fuelled by the failure of Kenneth Clarke in at least the last two Budgets to raise taxes or cut spending. Fiscal and monetary

shortfall. That will prick the economic bubble, sterling will fall, and the door will open for Britain's old enemy stagilation. The market will end the year well below its current level. The problem with that sort of view, apart from the fact that for most of the past 75 years it has been wrong, is that it doesn't sell

shares. No surprise then that Mr

Smithers, and his bearish co-

policy are out of balance, he

says, and interest rates will

have to rise to make good the

London FTSE All Share price index-

the bullish line taken by NatWest's Bob Semple is the favoured safe option.

Mr Semple's view is that an incoming Labour government will inherit an economic environment many of us thought we would never see in our lifetimes: solid economic growth, low inflation, falling unemployment and the external account in broad balance Gordon Brown's first budget will set a prudent fiscal policy (with one eye on keeping Maastricht options open) and an aggressive upward move in interest rates to 7 per cent will take the edge off consumer spending.

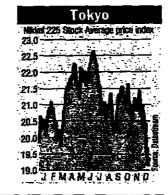
That should ensure a longer lived economic cycle, inflation will fall back towards the Government's 2.5 per cent target in the second half of the year and gilt yields will tall. The equity market, already underginned by

New York Dow Jones Industrials price Index 5600 :

business like PDFM's Tony dividend growth, will look in-Dye, are the exception rather creasingly cheap and large than the rule. For the rest of the amounts of institutional cash sitthe market to new highs, possibly 4,600 by year-end.

The truth probably lies somewhere between the Semple and Smithers scenarios and we would expect the FTSE 100 to close 1997 at around 4,300 and the Dow Jones index, driven by rising earnings and a maintained rating, at close to 7000. The Nikkei, which has threatened recovery for four years now, will have another indifferent 12 months. Consumer stocks will con-

tinue to benefit from rising high street spending, benefiting retailers, leisure companies and the brewers. Growth stocks will struggle to repeat the last two buoyant years and high yielders, the market's dogs during that time, will have their day. The gas man will still be reading the Investors Chronicle and the market will still be fluctuating, boy.



Unfinished business as shake-out continues There is a much unfinished FINANCE

business waiting for the financial services industry to get its teeth into during 1997. Banking, different stages of a shake-out that is breathtaking in its scope and which is far from finished. Banking will be the highest-

profile case, because during the spring and summer four large building societies, of which the largest is the Halifax, are to convert to banks.

This will give them the flexibility to raise new capital whenever their shareholders are willing, and they are likely to use their new resources to intensify competition with the traditional clearing banks.

It has been well over a decade since the big banks started talking about the need for a rationalisation of their branch networks and large reductions in costs, in preparation for increased competition on the high street. The toughest competition

for the traditional banks looks like being in the more traditional areas of branch banking. where the converted building societies will be bringing heavy pressure to bear in 1997.

But it will not be branch banking as it used to be known. Rather, the branches have become marketing centres for a range of financial products, from mortgages to insurance and share-dealing services, most of which are processed in centralised factories.

by Peter Rodgers

Converting building societies have been as anxious as banks to develop their insurance businesses and other financial services. They are likely to continue to snap up life insurance companies, copying the example of the most successful of all the high street groups. Lloyds TSB.

This will increase the incentive for the insurance industry already due for an overhaul before banks began to trespass on its patch - to rationalise

Until the beginning of the 1990s, the majority of general and life insurers resembled the banks a quarter century ago, when the abolition of a long established lending cartel introduced competition and started a restructuring that is still con-

Life and general insurers have managed to remain frag-mented and relatively inefficient, ill-prepared for the challenges of modern market-

The intense competitive pressure and the need to modernise their businesses led to one large merger last year between Royal and Sun Alliance.

ed company, raising extra can-

ital to strengthen its business,

The conversion of Norwich Union to a stock market quot-

will make further consolidation in the rest of the industry still more likely.

It would be surprising if 1997 ended without mergers involving other quoted composite insurers, such GRE of Commercial Union. The odds must also be at least even on a takeover of a large British composite insurer from abroad. Life insurance companies

Predictions three years ago of a halving of the number of active companies by the end of the century look as if they will be proved right. In London, the new Stock

will be under similar pressures.

Exchange trading system will have nothing like the catalytic effect on the industry of Big Bang in 1986, when fixed commissions were abolished. The modern version of Big

Bang is more likely to be found elsewhere in the City, and will be a result of monetary union. which is prompting a rationalisation of foreign exchange dealings rooms.

The final piece of unfinished

business is political. The City need not be too worried for the moment about Labour's reforms of financial regulation, if it wins power, because they are likely to be on the back burner during the first year or two.

Feel-good consumers exude a glow

1996 was the year when retailers finally began to believe in a consumer recovery. High street spending was boosted by lower interest rates and a housing market which started to show signs of a revival. If anything 1997 should be even better.

Consumer spending is still growing and should be buoyed yet further by windfall gains from the Halifax and Woolwich Building Society flotations. The forecast 7-8 per cent in-

crease in house prices this year will boost not just home furnishings and DIY retailers but the whole sector. A feel-good factor of sorts will cast a warmer

1997 also promises to be a year of corporate activity in retailing. The mail order market is one that is ripe for shake-up. With Sears' Freemans mail order business likely to be sold to Littlewoods, a new era is already

dawning. But with Great Universal

ETAILING by Nigel Cope

Stores under more dynamic management and Burton moving into the sector with the Innovations and Racing Green acquisitions the sector is already looking more interesting than

it has done for years. Also look out for a mail order move by Marks & Spencer. Britain's leading retailer already has a housewares catalogue. More are likely to follow. Top of the list for corporate action is the rambling Sears

group which had an accident

prone 1996 which chief execu-

tive Liam Strong would probably sooner forget. For Sears, and Mr Strong in particular, 1997 is a crunch year. With Freemans up for sale Sears looks more and more like a break-up candidate. Architect of the re-structure is likely to be Mr Strong himself who has found his position under threat. Sears could be spilt up into a series of smaller businesses with the highly successful Selfridges department store as a standalone business with healthy expansion prospects in other major cities. The womenswear chains which include Wallis and Miss Selfridge could form an-

other group. If Sears' Christmas trading statement is un-impressive the clamour for a restructure, or new management, will grow. This year is also judgement time for another one of last year's losers - House of Fraser, the department store group.

The new management under

John Coleman will be given a

period of grace to settle in and

forthcoming then the predators The supermarket sector looks set for another fascinating year.

1996 was characterised by cut throat competition as Tesco. Asda and Safeway all profited at Sainsbury's expense. This year promises to see no let-up in the competition. But there is the added twist that all four of the big groups will be operating under new management. One question is how Asda will fare this year as Archie Norman takes a less prominent role.

But the bigger question is this will 1997 see a Sainsbury renaissance? After a year on the ropes Sainsbury's needs a good run to claw back ground lost to Tesco. More details on the Sainsbury's Bank will be available this month and this could prove a key development as Sainsbury's attempts to re-claim the marketing initiative after a effect a turnaround. But if the year during which it always

long-awaited recovery is not looked to be following. Sains-forthcoming then the predators bury's may need one of its rivals to slip up to really make headway but with so many strengths including its brand name – the prospects of a turnaround look

Indeed brands will be a key issue again this year. The high street and the supermarket sector are gradually polarising between the winners which have strong brand names and the rest, which do not Next, Dixons, Argos and John Lewis are just some of the retailers whose brand strength has enabled them to develop market leading positions. The gap between them and the secondary retail

players will continue to widen. Finally, electronic shopping will make more progress this year. A new standard on the encryption of credit card numbers will make Internet transactions more secure and remove a major stumbling block to acceptance of the new medium.

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Corporation gets a toe in door of Keats House

Bloomberg has his sights set on overtaking arch-rival Reuters

Michael Bloomberg, the bil-lionaire purveyor of financial information and the main rival of Reuters, the market leader, is distracted, "What was the question," he asks for the second time, his eyes trained on the figure of a young, attractive woman standing on the other side of a glass partition at Bloomberg's Finsbury Square London headquarters.

"Does she work for you?", Mr Bloomberg is asked. "Beats me," he answers. "I hope not, cause she is not available if she

Well, it's good to know that Mr Bloomberg, newly single af-ter a 20-year marriage, doesn't attempt to date his own emplayees. He oversees a huge empire, employing 2,000 journalists and support staff and supplying quality financial information around the globe.

Ask anyone at Reuters what they think of Bloomberg, and they have two answers. The first is for public consumption: "no serious competition." The other is whispered in private: "They are big and getting bigger."
And so they are. This year.

with revenues of \$1bn, Bloomberg will take over the second position in the financial information market, exceeding the market share of Dow Jones-Telerate. The company has grown at a rate of about 30 per cent a year since it was launched in 1981.

It has done so by paying good salaries but wringing every last drop from employees. There are no job titles at Bloomberg, and - ostensibly -- no hierarchy. Nor, however, does he insist on taking absolute control. " I lend the name," he says. "That's the value. Look at Col Sanders - people think he still cooks all that chicken, even though he has been dead for two years." The approach has given him an undoubted edge in the market for financial information, to which has been subsequently added the bells and whistles of a full-service

Mathew Horsman talks to the US media tycoon about his global business aims

former broker and Harvard for real-time information about into new markets. The service stocks and bonds. His first ef-Business School graduate, really forts, helped by a intuitive un-derstanding of Wall St. and catch up? "We are a quarter of the size of Reuters, and you are insights into the world of comasking if that gap can be bridged," Mr Bloomberg says. "Of course it can. Ten or fifteen puters and communication. were simple affairs. Today, however, the Bloomberg box, which years ago we didn't even exist." sits on trading desks (and news-His confidence is impressive, even alarming. It is easy rooms) around the world, is soenough to believe the stories phisticated, supple and easy to use. He has since added books. about his departure from Samagazines and even television. lomon's, where he was shown the door because he had too

many opinions about how the

Mr Bloomberg saw a market

company should be run.

But Mr Bloomberg is far from satisfied. At 54, he sees challenges ahead, not least the roll-out of Bloomberg Television

is already up and running in the US and was recently launched in France. Carefully customised for each home market, it is set for launch in the UK at the end of the year as part of Rupert Murdoch's digital satellite network, to be introduced in No-

vember by BSkyB. So how profitable will the television business be? Mr Bloomberg is refreshingly blunt on the subject. "It's hard to see what you might call the media businesses generating anything like the money that the termi-

nal business generates," he concedes. "We make \$930m a year and are growing at 30 per cent. We'd have to be awfully successful at television to come close to that."

And he isn't even convinced that television is the best way to communicate information. The market for serious news is small," he says. "The market for business news is a lot smaller than that, and the market for business news on a sequential access medium is tiny. TV and radio don't lend themselves very well to imparting selective information, so I'd rather go to the newspaper or to my termi-

So why be in television at all? The answer is vintage Bloomberg, and a lesson to would-be entrepreneurs. "Our brand is better known now because we went into TV," he says. "The fourth estate [the press] loves to write about itself, so we get written about a lot more now that we are in the TV business "A cynic might say we are in

TV to sell the main business [of

terminals]. That's not quite true but its not wrong either. We wouldn't go in if it didn't sell terminals. We have a mens' room because we have to have one to sell terminals. But it doesn't earn any revenues." Still, he insists that he will

make a profit out of television, and wouldn't be investing the huge sums to develop the prod-uct if he didn't think it would make money.

Already rich beyond the dreams of avarice - "I can't spent the money I have now," he says - Bloomberg is still firmly committed to the business. In the future, he plans to roll out yet more TV services, and sell more Bloomberg terminals. "I want to do it everywhere,"

he says. "Where there are capital markets and the need for news, we want to do it in the lo-So what about all those ru-

mours that he is prepared to sell? Merrill Lynch, the investment bank, has 30 per cent of the company, but the rest is

The Corporation of London is taking over the ownership of Keats House in Hampstead, an early 19th century Grade I listed building closely associated with the work of

English poet John Keats. You may have thought the Corporation would have its hands full running the City of London, but it also has a good record in maintaining historic properties outside the Square Mîle.

These include Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge in Epping Forest. It also owns and manages a number of public spaces such as Hampstead Heath.

It was the London Borough of Camden, in fact, which approached the Corporation two years ago with a proposal to transfer ownership of the Keats House to secure its future. The house comes along with books and artifacts in the Keats collection and seven staff.

John Keats himself had strong connections with the Square Mile. He was born in the City in 1795 at a livery and alehouse called the 'Swan and Hoop" (now known as the "John Keats at The Moorgate") in Moorfields (now Moorgate). He also spent some time living in lodgings with his brothers at

number 76 Cheapside. It was at the house in Hampstead, however, which Keats moved to in 1816, where he composed his famous Ode to a Nightingale in the garden.

Barrie Pearson is not only the founding chairman of corporate finance boutique Livingstone Guarantee. He is also a food guide inspector who tirelessly patrols the eateries of the UK, dividing the good grub from the bad.

His finest accolade, however, must be that he has just assisted internationally renowned chef Raymond Blanc with the latter's yuletide tome, A Blanc Christmas. The in-house catering at Livingstone Guarantee must be something to savour.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



John Keats: The Corporation of London steps in

As if the Christmas and new Year celebrations weren't enough, a survey from IFA Promotion is seeking to hound us over worrying about toasting the Millennium. According to the campaigning body for independent financial advice, "just 6 per cent of Britons have made plans to celebrate the eve of the mil-

lennium 1999". No doubt the other 93 per cent are, like me, still recovering from this New Year's

Eve. Of those who have planned ahead, IFA Promotion tell us, 26 per cent, or 694,000 adults. plan to "go abroad." (Presumably to get away from pesky surveys like this). Another 21 per cent plan to hold a family get-together, 16 per cent want to hold a party and 14 per cent intend to "go out

with friends" Personally I'll be staying in and watching re-runs of Only Fools and Horses.

If the post-festivity blues are setting in, a new national campaign seeks to show people how to defeat depression. According to a self-help programme from The Royal College of Psychiatrists, stress today is largely down to changes in the work environ-

miliar? "The pressures on people have increased and companies are expecting more from their employees. They can work them too hard and expect too much from

The programme also warns that some workers push themselves too hard. They have a little terrorist in their brain saying Keep Going', who just flogs them on day in, day out. That is not the company's fault, that is

Match mode:

their personality. And there I was thinking it was fear of redundancy. Silly

Yorkshire Building Society has just appointed a new chairman, Derek Roberts. who retired as the society's chief executive last April. Mr Roberts, 54, joined the Yorkshire in 1972 and became chief executive in 1987. He is also a director of Yorkshire Water and is on the board of Bradford City Chal-

I see Mercury is advertising its Smartcall and UK Call services at the moment with the slogan: "Should old aquaintance be forgot?" All Mercury has forgotten is the

John Willcock

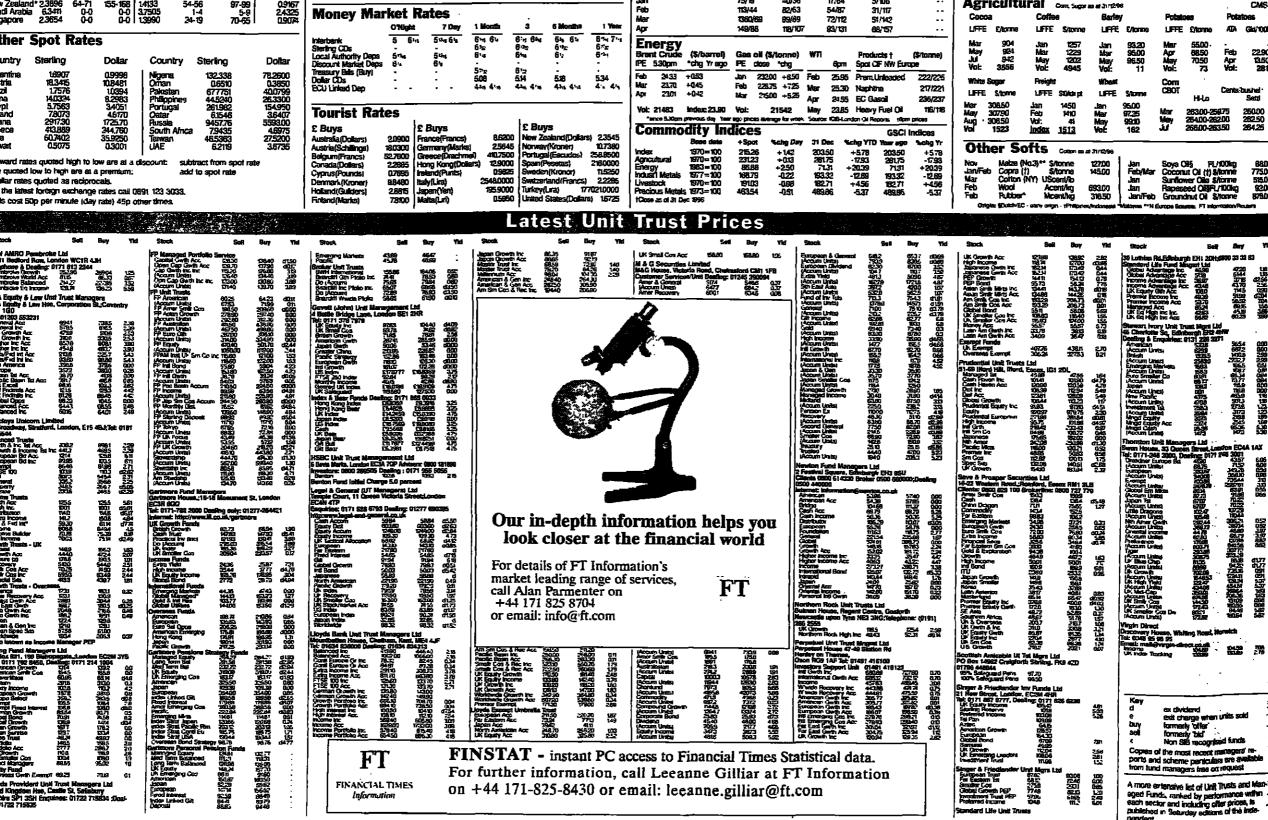
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John Adlecck

Barnes determined to make return to the limelight If he were in show business, If he were in show business, Paul Barnes will be described bis man of the match award. It s having worked for 10 years to be an overnight success.

変なはなるなったとう 二年によって、

A striker with a healthy, though relatively unnoticed, scoring record was suddenly propelled into the nation's awareness with one glorious and surprising flourish.

No one expected lowly York City to provide anything much more than doughty victims when they went to Old Trafford in the Coca-Cola Cup last season. True, Manchester United did not have their best team out, but there were seven internationals in the 11 who should have been more than enough to cope with a team struggling in the Second Divi-

Instead, in Alex Ferguson's words, United were given a football lesson. York won 3-0, Barnes scored two of the goals and but for a hairline offside decision would have finished with a hat-trick to take back to

is still, by some way, the best

night of the 29-year-old's career. Nobody expects this to be his only brush with fame. He harbours ambitions to play in the Premiership, but more immediate is the prospect of playing Liverpool tomorrow.

Burnley, Barnes' new club, go to Antield in the third round of the FA Cup and, as he says: "If the match against United proved anything, it's that anything's possible if you believe

Barnes has always had a helief in his ability even though his salad days were spent largely in the reserves at Notts County and Stoke City. Kenny Dalglish was his role model, but it took a £50,000 move to York, at the age of 24, to allow his natural scoring skills to come to the fore with 76 goals in 148 League ap-

The man who bought him, who is now Burnley's assistant



Guy Hodgson talks to the Burnley striker who is used to Cup upsets and will be eager for more at Anfield tomorrow

in my way.

cis became manager, he

clear that my opportunities

would be limited. I went to see

him and told him I wanted first-

team football and he was su-

perb. He told me be didn't want

me to go, but if I got set up somewhere he wouldn't stand

step down. You only have to go to Turf Moor to realise that this

is a big club, the proverbial

sleeping giant. It is a Second Di-

vision club that's geared to the First Division. I also knew the

manager, Adrian Heath, from

when we played together at

Stoke and, of course, there

"I don't regard Burnley as a

manager, John Ward, described Barnes as the "final piece in the jigsaw" and Alan Little, who succeeded Ward as the York manager, agrees. "It was a lot of money for the club in those days, but he repaid it many times over with his goals," Littie said. "He has pace and ability which worries defenders and if he misses he goes straight back for another go. He has no

A brief £350,000 transfer to Birmingham City followed - where he also averaged a goal every other game - before he moved to Burnley in September. "I had five months at St Andrew's under Barry Fry," he said, "but, when Trevor Fran-

حكنات الاجل

son, including one against Walsall in the second-round replay last week, and he is playing well enough for Burnley to be able to transfer-list their main striker, Kurt Nogan. "We're going well in the League," Barnes brought in Paul Furlong and said, "and the team is beginning Mike Newell for £2.5m so it was to play well. There's no reason why we shouldn't do ourselves justice against Liverpool."

Which was just about where York were when they met Man-chester United. "We went to Old Trafford determined not to let ourselves down, but once the game started the lads suddenly realised maybe we could do something here. The confidence grew when we took the lead, but to come away with a

3-0 win was unbelievable. "Alex Ferguson said after-wards that York had done a good job on United and my chief memory was of 80 per cent of the fans staying behind to

was John Ward. I didn't need much persuasion." clap us off the pitch, which was a marvellous feeling. I also won the man of the match award, which is rare for an away player. The whole evening was wonderful."

What about Anfield? "I've played a few reserve matches there and even when it is practically empty it is a magnificent ground. We visited the museum on one trip and to see the exhibits and experience the sense of history gives you an idea just how big Liverpool are. "I haven't given up hope

that I will reach the Premiership one day. Playing against the likes of Gary Pallister and Steve Bruce gave me a taste of what it is like with the best defenders and it is something I would like to do on a regular

An encounter with Liverpool's back five will simply provide him with a temporary brush against the country's élite. If he does well then, Burnley will probably do so too.



Paul Barnes in his York City days, when he won the man of the match award at Old Trafford Photograph: Empics

Matchless but modest Miguel

Miguel Indurain, who collected nicknames as readily as he picked up road-race titles during the five years when he dommated the Tour de France, may have retired but he will continued to be revered as a hero in

his native Spain.
The "Colossus of Roads", "Big Mig", "the Sphinx".
"Singing", however cycling aficionados around the world preferred to refer to him, Indurain became one of the greats of the sport and his popularity at home did not wane even though, having become the first man to win the Tour five times in a row, he mailed to make it six last year.

When the Tour crossed the border into Spain and passed through his home town of Pamplona last July, the phenomenal, emotional welcome he received could not have been greater had he been wearing the coveted yellow jersey of Tour leader. Instead the colours rested with Denmark's Bjarne Riis, who kept them until the Paris

finish. Yet Indurain, his brown eyes filled with tears at his reception, was still the only champion for his fellow Navarrans. "Five is enough," one banner proclaimed. Weeks after leaving the

Tour as one of the vanquished Indurain gave Spain something else to cheer when he won an Olympic gold medal. The Atlanta time trial was to be his final bow. Retirement rumours rumbled on through the season until this week when, in keeping with his manner, he slipped qui-Estly into the Hall of Fame to end an admirable reign.

Indurain's interest in bike racing was fired when he was 11, because a sandwich and a drink was given to each lad who finished a race in his home town. Then he was hungrily growing towards his 6ft 2in, his physical stature aided by working on his father's farm at Villava. Physically he was a natural for basketball. He tried it and also became the 400 metres running champion of Navarre, but he was destined for the chain gang.

Guided by Jose Miguel Echavarri, who left his bar in Pamplona to become a team manager, Indurain bloomed. His first Tour de France in

Robin Nicholl looks back over the career of a man mountain called Indurain, who is the only cyclist to have won five Tours de France in succession

was ordered to pull out. This gentle introduction made Indurain thirst for more. Four years later, he won his first Tour

Applause, medals and admiration came, but nothing would change his way of life. He was the people's champion. The Tour with all its agonies and frustrations tried its worst, but Indurain was true to his nickname of the Sphinx.

In the heat of impending victory Indurain phoned his mother, Isabel. He was not seeking comfort in her motherly

MIGUEL INDURAIN FACT FILE 1964 Born 16 July at Villave, Spein

1986 four of Spein, 92nd, Tour de France, aban-doned doned 1987 Jour de France, 97th 1988 Jour de France, 47th 1966 Your de France, 17th, won two stages, Tolis of Spain, abordoned 1990 Joins Banesso soant Rus de France, 10th,

doned Clampic time even, 1997 Retired 2 January

tones, all he wanted to know was whether the family had harvested the barley crop. Indurain once raced 16 miles

on mountain roads with a double fracture of his wrist, and his only publicised acknowledgement to pain was when another rider accidentally stood on his stockinged foot. Indurain's shout was quoted throughout the Spanish media, "Everyone tells me that I never look as if I am suffering, but when I see videos of the races I always remember the pain I had to endure."

He was as cool as an iceberg, and just as dangerous. It is his unseen depths of resolve that sink his rivals, but Echavarri always pointed out the physical a bicycle race after all."

1985 lasted four days before he Indurain. A heart almost twice

the normal size, a slow heart beat, and a lung capacity twice that of the average man of his age. Indurain's extra long thigh bones also gave him more leverage for pedalling, and that was the key to the speed that gave him the victories in Tour time trials that were the foundation for those five victories.

His mentality, as much as his physique, was to be admired. "Miguel is a lord," Echavarri said. "Eddy Merckx would grind and humble his rivals. Miguel is considerate and does not rule in such a fashion."

Indurain always treated his team like a family. "The riders are my brothers and Echavarri is the father. I never scream or shout at my team-mates. Aggression does not make me a better rider. Everyone makes mistakes. I do, and it is best to forgive.

After his third Tour triumph. streets were named in Indurain's honour, even a hymn sung his praises. Spain's King Juan Carlos greeted him on another triumphal return to Spain, and when it came to sportsman of the year, the likes of Seve Ballesteros had to settle for being voted into second place. When Indurain hit

the Tour road in July Spanish TV ratings soared, and peaked on his triumphal parade along the Champs-Elysées. Programmers could be running repeats next July as their superstar settles for a quieter life with his wife and family, and looks forward to the next harvest down on the farm.

Fame could never spoil Indurain. His example in deed and manner will be hard to follow. Five Tours de France, two Tours of Italy, a world title, the world hour record, and Olympic gold would make many stick out their chests, but as he said after a Tour victory: "I am proud of what I have done, but you must keep a perspective. It's just



Miguel Indurain acknowledges another of the many triumphs which made him one of Photograph: Allsport the greatest cyclists of all time

Stevenage in bold pursuit of twin targets

Non-League notebook RUPERT METCALF

The only GM Vauxhall Conference fixture to beat the winter weather on New Year's Day saw the defending champions, Stevenage Borough, secure a spectacular 6-1 win at Slough Town to climb to third place in the table.

Stevenage are a daunting 15 pomis behind the leaders. Kidderminster Harriers, but they have five games in hand - and they are not letting tomorrow's scheduled FA Cup trip to Birmingham City distract them from their main objective this season.

"If we could swap places with Kidderminster, we would," Paul Fairclough, the Stevenage manager, said, "but this club loves a challenge. The Cup run is great, but the league is more important and we still think we can win it. Wednesday's result at Slough

did his side's self-belief no he is as money in the bank," Kidharm. "We were most surprised to find the game was on, but it was a great confidence-booster ahead of the Cup tie. And we've got a message for Birmingham – we're not just going there to enjoy the day, we're going there to win." Stevenage were drawn at

home for the third-round tie switched to St Andrew's on Avenue side.

police advice. When it will be played remains to be seen - City have had their last two home games postponed and a hot-air balloon covering the pitch failed to save Wednesday's fixture against Manchester City.

David Sullivan, Birmingham's joint-owner, might not be too upset if Borough have to wait for their big day out. "We want a perfect pitch to play Stevenage on," he said, "and don't want to give them any possible advantage by staging the game on a substandard pitch.'

The winter weather prevented play at Bromsgrove Rovers, so Kidderminster will have to wait to try and gain revenge for their unexpected Boxing Day 2-1 home defeat to their Worcestershire rivals. Harriers have, however, signed up their highly rated striker, Lee Hughes, until the end of the 1998-89 season.

Hughes, 20, has scored 21 goals this season. "He is more valuable to us on the pitch than derminster's manager, Graham Allner, said. Peter Davenport, the former

Nottingham Forest, Manchester United and England forward, has become Southport's caretaker manager following the resignation before Christmas of Steve Joel. Davenport, who had been Joel's assistant, intends but the match was soon to carry on playing for the Haig

Albania

Last month we reported that Mario Kempes, Argentina's 1978 World Cup hero, was to become the first foreign coach in Albania when he joined the First Division club, Lusbaja. Now we are glad to put the record straight. The first foreign coach in the impoverished Balkan country did indeed arrive this season - but in September, not December, and he is a 49-year-old Welshman called Ken Jones.
No World Cup winners'

medals feature in Jones' career - he played 70 League games for Wrexham, Crystal Palace and Swindon - but his Albanian adventure is just as remarkable as that of Kempes. After his League days ended Jones joined the police force and played for, coached and managed the Great Britain police side. He also spent five years coaching Stafford Rangers, but has not been involved in club football for several years.

Now, though, Jones is coaching Albania Tabak, a First Division club from the town of Librazhd. "It was arranged by British Executive Services Overseas [a government-funded agency] and I went over there in September," Jones said yesterday. "I go back in February after their winter break. They wanted a foreign coach to raise the club's profile.

"I've got 24 professional players to work with, but the best-paid only earns about £90 a month," Jones added. "The facilities are not good." Nevortheless, Jones is doing his best in his Balkan outpost and had steered his side up to seventh place in the League by the winter break.

When he returns to Albania next month, an English fire engine will be making the same journey. The town of Librazhd did not have one, so, with the help of the Staffordshire Emergency Humanitarian Aid Group, Jones has arranged the provision of medical supplies plus the surplus fire engine. Now there's an achievement that Mario Kempes might

struggie to emulate...

THE WORLD Cyprus

Football fans in Cyprus have been gripped by allegations of a betting scandal involving their national team.

The Cypriot Football Asso-ciation has demanded a goverament inquiry into allegations that last month's World Cup qualifier against Bulgaria was rigged. It wants an investigation into bookmakers' accounts to find out how much money was bet on Cyprus to lose the match and who placed the bets.

This follows local media allegations that some of the Cyprus players had bet large sums of money on their team losing. The Bulgarians won 3-1. We want a thorough, indepth investigation." the FA chairman, Marios Lefkaritis, said. "What concerns us is that the integrity of football is at stake and even though we are talking about rumours we are embarrassed and want to clear the whole situation up.

The media allegations do not mention any specific player, but the FA has admitted that the sums bet on the match are enough to arouse suspicion, saying about £30,000 was bet on the game - 10 times the usual amount. Bookmakers started rejecting bets when they became suspicious, a parliamen-

tary inquiry was told this week. Costas Koutsokoumuis, the FA vice-chairman, told the parliamentary inquiry: "I can only say the performance of some players [in the match against Bulgaria) was not as it normally is in other games... but this could easily be countered with an excuse, like they had the flu.

Rupert Metcalf

India made to suffer for bad catching

Cricket

South Africa 280-4 v India

India were made to pay for missed chances as South Africa built up a commanding position on the first day of the second Test in Cape Town yesterday.

Gary Kirsten and Daryll Cullinan both survived chances and made their opponents pay with a third-wicket partnership of 114, a record against India. Their stand eclipsed the 60 runs Kepler Wessels and Peter Kirsten put on at Durban four years ago, and helped South

Africa close on 280 for 4. South Africa won the toss in good batting conditions to heap more pressure on India, who were trounced in the first Test. The tourists were soon on the back foot again as Kirsten, who was dropped twice before he had scored double figures, hit 103 and Cullinan, who was

dropped once, made 77. India gave a debut to the Karnataka medium pacer, Doddanarasiah Ganesh. Scoreboard, Digest, page 27

England to mark Kersey's death

The England team will wear black armbands in the third oneday international against Zimbabwe in Harare today as a mark of respect to the Surrey wicketkeeper Graham Kersey.

The 25-year-old cricketer lost his fight for life on New Year's Day after suffering severe head injuries in a car crash in Brisbane on Christmas Eve. The Surrey captain, Alec

Stewart, on tour with England, said: "We have lost not only a great cricketer, but also a tremendous team man. He was, without doubt, the most popular man on the staff; a true players' player."

south London, was spending the winter in Australia, playing for the Western Suburbs District Cricket Club in Brisbane. The former Kent player, who moved to The Oval in 1993, was voted Surrey's Player of the Year in 1995 and was capped last September.
The Surrey chief executive,

Kersey, born in Phimstead, Christmas Eve to get the news and unfortunately he did not make his fight for life over Christmas and we heard the terrible news yesterday." Kersey, a talented, athletic

and tidy keeper, and a a dogged batsman, played in 53 first-class matches, claiming 169 catches and making a dozen stumpings, while scoring more than 1,500 Paul Sheldon, told Radio 5 runs at a respectable average of 23.20. In one-day appearances, Live: "As you'd expect we are all completely numb and dev-Kersey had 33 victims and a halfastated by the whole thing. century to his credit. "It was such a shock on

Kersey: 'A players' player'



cials are investigating claims that several Pakistan players were verbally abused by the crowd during Wednesday's limited overs international in Sydney. The players' identities have

not been disclosed, but they have complained they were victims of racism during the World Series match that the tourists won by four wickets. Police arrested eight men

for going on to the playing field, including one man who slid stomach-down into the stumps, and removed 86 spectators for unruly behaviour. Another six spectators were arrested on charges including offensive behaviour. Australia's captain, Mark

Taylor, said: "I think everyone has been disappointed at various times with crowds elsewhere, and we seem to be following suit." The New South Wales

bowler Anthony Stuart has been called into the Australian squad to replace the injured first match against Guy Forget Paul Reiffel for Sunday's oneon Sunday. He was on a beach day international against the holiday in Florida when he was West Indies in Brisbane.

Gimelstob shocks Philippoussis called up as a late replacement

for Richey Reneberg whose

sional last June and his previ-

ous best performance was a

quarter-final place at the Scotts-

dale tournament in the United

In the other Group A tie, the

top seeds, Croatia, who lost

2-1 to the United States in a sev-

en-hour match on Wednesday,

were handed a 3-0 victory by

France after Guy Forget for-

feited due to blisters on his

hand. Romania kept alive their

chances of reaching the final

The top seed Thomas

with a 3-0 victory over Germany

Muster, angered by mobile

and took more than two hours

to beat Norway's Christian

Rund for a place in the quar-

phone users, dropped a set

States last year.

in Group B.

Gimelstob turned profes-

wife was due to give birth.

Tennis

Little-known teenager Justin Gimelstob recorded the biggest win of his short career when he upset Australia's Mark Philippoussis to steer the United States to the final of the Hopman Cup mixed team event in Perth yesterday.

world, outslugged the 30th-ranked Australian 7-6, 4-6,7-6 in a match lasting nearly two and a half hours to carry the US team to an unassailable 2-0 lead and a place in tomorrow's final. That was a big win, proba-

Gimelstob, ranked 151 in the

bly the biggest of my career so far," the New Jersey-born right-hander said after his first singles victory in Perth. Chanda Rubin, the world No 17, who has not lost a singles tie

in the eight-team tournament, had accounted for Nicole Bradtke 7-5, 6-0 to give the US team the early advantage. Gimelstob, 19, arrived in Perth only nine hours before his

ter-finals of the Qatar Open in The Austrian needed two hours and 13 minutes to defeat Ruud 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 and set up a last-eight match against the American Jim Courier, the

cighth seed.

sport

RACING: The tide-washed sands of nature's all-weather gallop underpin a small trainer's attempt to keep pace with his peers



Strands of hope shape a golden horizon

Before the east wind intervened, the feature race at Sandown tomorrow was to be the chase named in memory of Peter Cazalet, trainer to royal-ty in the immediate post-War years and a man who might be slightly perplexed by the modern way of preparing racehors-es. What with equine swimming pools, all-weather gallops, tra-chea washes and blood counts, it is sometimes difficult to tell where the training duties end and those of the scientist begin.

Coome Hill, the Hennessy Gold Cup winner, is currently as solid as Alaskan permafrost, but while many of Lambourn's leading names are forced to leave their string in their boxes, Den-Coome Hill is not the first

racehorse to benefit from ex-Yet one old-fashioned virtue ercising on the beach. Red can still prove invaluable in Rum and, more recently, Nor
"but at least you can keep them its own right for which the

ton's Coin enjoyed regular gal-lops along the strand, and the these hi-tech times - the ability to improvise. The main gallop on the farm in Cornwall parallel between Coome Hill and the 1990 Gold Cup winner where Walter Dennis prepares is particularly striking. Like Sirrell Griffiths, 56-year-old Dennis is a farmer who trains a small stable of horses as a sideline. Give him a good one, however, and he will prepare it

> nis, who like Griffiths takes personal charge of his best

Greg Wood on the racehorse taking the Red Rum route to big-race success

moving. The horses enjoy it; the only problem is that the sand is quite firm and if you go too quick, you can jar them up. So we go at just below half-pace, to keep them right."

nis keeps his stable star on the with as much care and talent as the Mildmay/Cazalet Chase boil thanks to some unseasonal trips to the beach at Bude. "The beach isn't ideal," Denplanned as Coome Hill's next stopping point on the path to the Gold Cup at Cheltenham in have to keep our options open and hope we can find them." Dennis's attempt to become

the second farmer-trainer in re-

gelding might well have been favourite, but Dennis is philo-sophical about losing it to the cent memory to win the Gold Cup will differ from Sirrell elements. "It might not be a bad thing," Griffiths's in one respect at the trainer said. "I think Coome least. Norton's Coin, as anyone Hill's ideal trip is three and a who backed him will not need quarter miles, though Jamie reminding, started at 100-1, [Osborne] seems to think he'd while Coome Hill is already at do the job [over another three single-figure odds with some bookies for the chasing chamfurlongs] easily enough. But it was a race which came at just

the right time for him, and ide-

"Someone must have had a to the farm because that's what

ally he'd want a couple more be-fore Cheltenham. We'll just er said, "because Coral have brought him back to 9-1. I'm a bit surprised he's at those odds, but I suppose the way he won a result, the local beach seems the Hennessy caught the attention. He stayed on terrifically from the last and he's the sort of horse who finds a lot off the

> nered horse, and if you give him a crack, he'll quicken up." Coome Hill's three victories this season have demonstrated Dennis's talents as a trainer, but as he admits, "we give priority

bridle. He's such a well-man-

bring in the customers, but we have to finance ourselves." As sure to be as close as the Dennis string gets to an all-weather gallop for some time to

take away Coome Hill and I I'll be investing in one of those for now." Peter Cazalet, you suspect, would thoroughly ap-

Extra cards ride to the rescue

Even the harshest critics of the North and three in the Mid-British Horscracing Board should be able to find little to and 28 January, the first of them complain about regarding the way in which racing's ruling body has coped with the cold snap, writes John Cobb. The board's willingness to restage important races and the addition of standby all-weather cards are welcome developments, as is the scheduling of extra jumps meetings, a move which was announced yesterday.

An extra seven cards have been added to the National Hunt programme as part of a package of relief designed to ease the impact of the spiralling list of fixture abandon-

meetings, extra funding for di-much as we can." vided races and enhanced prize money for key events.

Tim Forster-trained chaser, cut

in price by both Ladbrokes and

William Hill on Wednesday,

had his odds chopped yesterday from 33-1 to 25-1 by the race

Maamur has not run since his

win in the Ritz Club Chase at last year's Cheltenham Festival

and holds no imminent en-

THE INDEPENDENT

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sponsor, the Tote.

LINGFIELD

at Leicester. But with the freeze likely to continue into next week more meetings may yet be

programmed.
The BHB's racing director,

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Absolute Magic (Southwell 1.00) NB: Jay-Owe-Two (Southwell 2.30)

Paul Greeves, said: "Last season we had a dreadful time from Boxing Day to New Year but this time the cold weather seems to be biting longer and With 49 meetings already lost to the weather, the BHB the weather could improve by acted with the Levy Board to make up for lost opportunities But, even if these and others are by sanctioning replacement lost, we will continue to do as

will not return him to action un-

Reveley as she attempts to saddle three challengers for the

Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopard-

stown tomorrow week. Express Gift, Penny A Day and Execu-

tive Design are all in line for the

contest, but with snow and frost

threatening her gallops at Salt-burn on Teesside she may be

forced to box them up and

ond favourite with the sponsor.

will be the mount of Peter Niv-

en, the stable jockey, while the

places aboard Express Gift and

Executive Design will be filled

by Nick Smith and Gary Cahill

The Ladbroke (11 January): Ladbrokes: 5-1 Krayrawan: 20-1 Penny A Day, Family Way: King Of Kerry; 12-1 Notcomplainingbut, Guest Performance: 14-1 others.

respectively.

take them to the beach. Penny A Day, the 10-1 sec-

Ground conditions are also proving a problem for Mary

til the going softens.

ded races and enhanced prize
oney for key events.

The fixtures, four in the

Reptacement cards: Letoester, 14 January,
Carliste, 20 January, Market Rasen, 21 January,
The fixtures, four in the

as odds tumble again

Maamur is proving mysteriously popular in betting on the Cheltenham Gold Cup. The Cheltenham Gol

SOUTHWELL HYPERION 2.30 DOUBLE-0 (nap) 1.00 Absolute Magic 1.30 Montone (nb) 3.00 Forzair 2.00 Parklife GOING: Standard. STALLS: Inside. STALUS: INSIGE. DEAW ADVANTAGE: None. Fibresand surface; left-hand sharp, oval course. Course is 3m SE of 100m and 5m W of Newark. Rolleston Junction adjoins course. AD-MISSION: Club £12; Tattersalls £6 (OAP members of course's Diamond Club £4, accompanied under-16s free). CAE PARE: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Chapman — 41 winners from 358 runners gives a success ratio of 11.5% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 589.90; M Johnston — 40 winners, 190 runners, 21.1%, 4513.76; R Boltinshead — 28 winners, 348 runners, 8.31%, -518.58; J L Eyre — 25 winners, 107 runners, 15.3%, -513.13.

■ LEADING JOCKETS: J Weaver — 47 winners, 247 rides, 19%, +542.97; J Quian — 41 winners, 477 rides, 8.6%, -5229.93; L Dettori — 36 winners, 181 rides, 19.9%, -543.01; Dean McKeowyn — 31 winners, 280 rides, 11.7%, -597.35.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Shoja (visored) (1.00); Napoleon's Return (1.30); El Don (visored) (2.00); Bold Charlie (visored), Fenian Court (3.00); Slent Weapon (visored) (3.30); WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Cats Bottom (1.30) and Jay-Oree-Two (2.30)

won here on Friday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Cats Bottom (1.30), Raffles Rooster (2.00) & Lycius Touch
(2.30) have been sent 2:5 miles by A Newcombe from Hunishaw, Devon; Burning Flame
(2.00) sent 196 miles by R M Flawer from Jevington, E Sussex.

15	i nni	CERCES I CROUME OF VINERAL STATES (CTV22 L) \$7,300 S0080
Ŀ		1m Penalty Value £2,294
1	505115-	ABSOLUTE MAGIC (48) (D) (Mrs Barbara Basseri) W Haggist 7 9 7
2	1/152/0-	JOSEPH'S WINE (42) (C D) (Netherby Racing Bureau) D Nicholls 8 9 7 JAlex Greaves 12 B
3	200002-	BERNARD SEVEN (69) (D) Mas C E Dods) M Cods 5 9 3
4	354041-	CHADLEIGH LANE (USA) (42) (CD) U E Bigg R Holleshead 5 8 9
5	651554	SPENCER'S REVENCE (23) (CD) (Ette Racing Club) N Tirider 8 8 9
6		AFAAN (E Gray) R Marvin 5 8 7T 6 McLamptin 10
7	00 -	SHOUR (76) (Peter Mest) Mrs V Accrety 4 8 7
8	000000	SPANISH STREPER (USA) (46) (Tony Seichell) M Chaptran 6 8 7
9		CREDIT CALL (R G Brazegion) R Brazegion 9 8 5 Qubit 13
10	90-	GROUGHTON'S RELISH (6) (Broughton Bloodstock) W Musson 4 8 4 Danton Williams (7) 5
11	003100-	GIDDY (31) (CD) (C D Barber-Lorrary J Hetherton 4 8 2
17	F53-	RUBY ANGEL (42) (Nickfield Farm Partnership) H Cardy 4 8 0 C Rutter 6
13	2/000000-	LADY ECLAT (39) (Mrs A Squites) h Wingrove 4 7 12 M Variet (3) 2
14	06030/0-	MAGICATION (364) (Mis Sheetigh Hughes) X Wingtone 7 7 12
-		- 14 declared -
DC	TT140- 0.4	Should Made 2.1 Chadaid Imp 0.1 Remail Some Rate Antal Consult Re-

Maamur the rumour FORM GUIDE

After turf wins at Yermouth and Museeburgh, ABSOLUTE MAGIC failed to complete the hattrick when Switched to Fibresend at Wolverhampton, but he did not run bedly, finishing fifth
to Duke Valentino in a competitive hendicap. Absolute Magic's Musseiburgh win wer under
9st 13th and he can be fancied to give away weight in this claimer. Chaddeigh Laine confirmed his living for all-weather here as weeks ago, getting the better of Elmo Ledge in a
claimer over this distance, a race in which Ruby Angel was eight lengths sway thrid and
claimer over this distance, a race in which Ruby Angel was eight lengths sway thrid and
claimer over this distance, a race in which Ruby Angel was eight lengths sway thrid and
claimer over this distance, a race in which Ruby Angel was eight lengths sway thrid and
claimer over this distance, a race in which and the series of the same three gap as she is lightly raced and lively to improve, Joseph's Wine needed that latest
run and has the necessary binkers book on, but a male could be on the short side. Bernand
Newmarket. He bear South Eastern Fred in a Wolverhampton handicap in January last year.
Spencers Revenage has been below has best recently but he won the second division of this
race last year. Gliddy must put behind her two poor efforts in handicaps, and the 19th she
gets from Absolute Magic might not be enough.

[1.30	LINCOLNSHIRE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m Penaity Value £2,294
		AMESONE VENTURE (2) (CD) Oktober Resen Racing) M Chaptern 7 11 7Mr K Loads (7) 9
2	620311-	TMBH CREEKS (45) (CD) (American Jockeys) V Soone 6 11 3
3	002423-	DESERT SWADER (6) (CD) (David W Chapmon) D Chapman 6 11 3

oeds (7) 9
Inlan (7) 2
r R Helia 6
(4)1V
mish 14 Y
s Wilson 7
Carthy 10
enek (7) 4
ee a (n) 13
son (7) 15

	~~~	NACON POLICE OFFICE AND THE LEGISLAND IN CO. CO. C.
L	000045	NAPCLEON'S RETURN (42) (D) (J E Wilson) J L Eyre 4 9 4
2	5000002-	CAROL AGAIN (7) (C) U G Lumeden) N Bycroft 5 9 3
3	052533	RENG THE CHIEF (179) (M D I Usher) M Lisher 5 9 0
		ROYAL ACCUANN (185) (CD) (David M Foster) R Dickin 12 9 () Miss R J Paltesen (7) 8
5	00/00000	FRED'S DELIGHT (211) (I E Harris) Mrs V Acordey 6 9 0
		_ 15 derimad _

Minimum weight: Sst. True weights: Ring The Chief Sst 100, Royal Actains Sst 70. Fred's Delight 7st 11th. SETTING: 3-1 Casts Bottom, 5-1 Twin Creeks, 6-1 Desert Invader, 7-1 Awasome Venture, Montone, 8-1 Kingchip Boy, 10-1 others

1996: Hornismatic 4-10-1 Mrs M Morris 12-1 (S R Bowing) 15 ran

KUNGCHIP BOY last year won four times over this mile before the end of April and q will be KINGCHIP BOY last year won four times over this rible before the end of April and it will be a surprise if he does not go well again after drasing home Slevenamon in the second division but the fibs on of the mile handloop here last Friday. Cats Bottom won the first division but the fib penalty she picked up for beating Indiahra will make life difficult in this hotter race. Montone, who ran Kingchip Boy to three-parts of a length in a race of this sort last April and won five times when noden by Michael Marrish last year, was clear of the others when chasing home Angel Face at Lingfield last time. Downton Fiyer found Angel Face and Times Weeks too strong on his fast vist. His earlier win here was in a race in which he was brouted by the weights. Twin Creeks ended his 1996 campaign with two wins at Lingfield. He acts on all times all-weather tracks. Awesome Venture is out again quickly after finishing second to Dahlyan on Wednesday, but that was in a claiming race and he laces a outgier task under top weight in this handscao. Napoleon's Return is from an in-form yard that enjoyed a successful year, but this trip fooks on the short side for Carol Agale, beaven a dozen langths when second to Randeer Quest a week ago.

Selection: KINCCHP BOY

2.00 DERBYSHIRE MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,900 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,710
1 600430- RAFFLES ROOSTER (84) (Mark A Lesthorn) A Newcombe 5 9 10
2 05500- CALENDULA (63) (Christopher Sperice) D Morte; 4 9 10 G Carter 2
3 OS4- BALLET DE COUR (163) (The R and R Partnership) T Ethernegum 4.8 12
4 450500- NAUTICAL JEWEL (15) (Sporing Partiers) M Usine 5 8 10
5 420302- PARKLIFE (87) (Nest) Middleton) P Hastom 5 8 6 S Drome 14
6 00:00-0 ACERBUS DURCIS (2) (George N Hooke) M Chapman 6 8 5
7 0406- MUSTANG (104) (Guy Reed) C Thorrion 4 8 4
8 O40/ TURRILL HOUSE (566) U R Hawisley) W Musson 5 8 3
9 Q-60000 EL DON (7) (Don Morris) M Ryan 5 8 2 2 Bardwell 9 V
10 665060- SWANDALE FLYER (67) (Andrew Camuthers) N Bycroft 5 8 1
11 O4055/3- SHEPHEROS REST (254) (The Odd Dozen) S Mellor 5 9 1 J Quien 6
12 400060 BURNING FLAME (45) (Ian Rieck) R M Flower 4 7 12 F Norton 12
13 000/00- CAPTAIN TANDY (45) (D.E. Sirris) C. Smith 8 7 10
14 000/600- ELLE MAC (36) U F Coupland) M Bielby 4 7 10 Person (5) 7 V
15 /00000- DISPOR DANCER (76) 0 E Harris) Mrs V Accriley 6 7 10N Carlisle 4
45 4

Harimum weight: 7st 10h. True handloop weights: Ble Mac 7st 8th. Dispoi Dancer 7st 6th. BETTING: 3-1 Parishts, 7-2 El Den, 4-1 Shepherds Rest, 8-1 Raffles Rooster, 10-1 Cale Ballet de Corp. 18-1 others

1996: Mr Monany 5 7 10 N Carlele 9-2 IS R Bowing 16 ran

FORM GUIDE

Mr Monarty had been successful over numbes shortly before he won this race 12 months ago and there must be a chance that SHEPHERDS REST can emulate him after secent win over timber at Lingfield. Like Mr Morianty. Shepherds Rest is at the right end of the handwap. Parkilife has not raced since his fair fourth behind Share Options over hundles at Wetherby on 17 October. But that was only nine days either he returned from a six-month lay-off to finish second to inchealloch at Wenvick (2m). He has shown he can act on this course end the yeard won with Going For Broke here on Wednesday. Callendula was found wanting in the two handicaps she tackled on turf so she needs to improve. Bellet De Cour is another lightly-faced filly who might figure more prominently now she tackles her first handicap withe Mustang has not had much chance to show what he can do — and Chris Thomfon did well with his all-weather horses last winer. Nautical Jewel has struggled in two recent all-weather races but he was second of 14 in a mile handicap here on his first on tax year and his latest effort on turf (With of 18 behind Licy Tufty at Folkerstone) suggests he is not a lost cause. FORM GUIDE

230 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 370 of Penalty Value £3,355

FORM GUIDE

There may be some doubts about BRUTAL FANTAST's courage, but he does go well fresh, as a debut win in a Musseburgh seller back in May proves. He finished second to Perfect Blass at Thirsk in August after an eight-week break when rated Bla higher than for this all-

rut, so it is worth fore ving him two poor runs in October. De weather beaut, so it is worth ranging mit two poor runs in October. Disease—I stayed on strongly to beat Jaye-Owe-Two by a length and three-quarters at Wolverhampton last month and meets that rival 3to better, Jaye-Owe-Two being penalised 7th for an easy marden win here last week. Double-O could not handle seven fundings last time when fifth to Nomore Mr Niceagu, finishing a neck behind C-Harry, who is a pound better off. Sharp Return was a length and three-quarters behind C-Harry when they filed the places in Return Of Amin's ace here in November. He has a 3to pull and ran well in third to Kilculien Lad at Linefiek race nere in November. He has a 3th pull and ran well in third to Niculien Lao of Lingdell last time. Slouzzouge was a neck behard C-Harry when they filled the places in Arapi's race here in November (Enchantling Eve was several). His trainer Pet Haslam anded a losing sequence with a double in recent days. Master Foley showed improved form to land a poor Wolverhampton seller by seven lengths last month but it remains to be seen whether he re-produces the form in this company. He meets Enchanting Eve a stone worse than when hat a length behind her in Dominant Air's race on this track in November.

3.00 YORKSHIRE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 3f Penalty Value £2,085					
	1		AL HELAL (90) (Mass J L Watson) J Jerlens 5 9 1		
	2		BLUE DOMAIN (31) (Ray Crages) R Crages 6 9 1		
i	3	0050/	BOLD CHARLE (517) (Mrs J Harmsworth) S Mellor 5 9 1	٧ و بعض الــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ	
	4		CALDER KING (59) (D) (D Clarkson) J L Eyre 6.9 1		
1	5	000050-	CHELLY LAD (33) (C) (The Good Fun Racing Club) R Justes 6.9.1	A Colliane 1 V	
	6	000334-	FORZAR (20) (C) (Clayton Biggey Partnership Ltd) J J O'Neil 5 9 1		
,	7		HORNPIPE (7) (K.D. Standen) J. Whanon 5.9.1		
	8		SARASI (27) (The Blue Chip Group) M. Carracho 5 9 1		
ı	9		UNDAWATERSCIRADIVA (42) U F Coupland) M Bielby 5 9 1		
	10		FLINT AND STEEL (93) (Mrs Just Woods) Bob Jones 4 8 12		
	11,	0000000/	ENGLANDRIA MILLS (510) (Alan Mann) M Chaptern 68 10	_iona Wands (7) 5	
	12	0-	FERNAN COURT (366) (Mass ) Bower) Mass J Bower 6 8 10	S D <b>Williams</b> 8 B	
	13		JEANNE CUTRONA (212) (Mrs A Squites) K Wingrove 4 8 7		
	14	65544	THREESOCKS (315) (K H Buris) B Smart 4 8 7		
			- 14 declared -		
	DETTING 2.4 Caldan Year G.2 Enrach, C.1 Manustra, Council 40.4 Years and 40.4 Al Main! Dist				

BETTING: 3-1 Calder King, 9-2 Forzair, 6-1 Hompipe, Sarasi, 10-1 Tureesocks, 12-1 Al Helal, Film And Steel, 14-1 others 1996: Tartan Gem 5 9 1 R Cochrane 4-1 (M Britain) 14 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Les Eyre is bombing atong and this seller looks nailed on for his old campaigner CALDER KING, who has been finding two miles over hundles a bit too much. Calder King loved soft ground on but and his Lapest all-weather run resulted in a handicap third to River Keen at Wolverhampton in March – proof that he can gallop on the surface. Sareal has won on the course over a mile. He made every yard to beat Queen of The Birds in February and then did nothing over similar trips at Wolverhampton, the latest four weeks ago after a lengthy layoff. Forzair has won twide on this course so holds each-way possibilities. Jungo O'Neill has taken him over since those wins for Roy Bowning, and Wilke Ryan rides today after the gelding's latest runs with an apprentice. Filint Aird Steel has shown a gimmer of ability on our and rates the best outsider.

3.30 RUTLAND HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,600 added 3YO 7f Penal- ty Value £2,704					
1	0454	HEVER GOLF DANCER (27) (Hever Racing Outs) T J Naughton 9 7 G Carter 4			
2	606-	SILENT WEAPON (69) IMrs J M Ryani K Makutiffe 9.2S Sanders 1 V			
3	650-	COME DANCING (52) (Peter Wester) M. Inheston 8 10			
4	033-	PATINA (27) (B8rouche Stud Lid) R Hallandhead & 10			
5	65F000-	AMY (140) (A E Needram) C Smith 8 7 A Clark 2			
ő	430553	LYCRUS TOUCH (62) (J A F Carris) A Newcombe 8 6S Drowne 8			
1	532000	FULL TRACEABOUTY (15) (Clayton Bigley Partnership Lich J J O'Neil 85			
8	000-	PET EXPRESS (15) (Per Express (WSP) Ltd) P Hastart 7 10 L Charmock 7			
		- 8 declared -			

Minimum weight ?st 10th. True handicap weight: Per Eures 7st 1th.
BETTING: 5-2 Parker, 3-1 Henrer Golf Dancer, 5-1 Lychra Touch, 6-1 Stient Weigen, 8-1 Come Dancing, Pull Traceability, 12-1 others
1996: Chino Castle 3 8 12 J Weaver 9-1 (P Hasiam) 13 ran

The 0-65 grade offers all numers hope. There could be good value with COME DANCENG, a Suave Dancer filly who looked a shade delicate when having to be taken to the post early at Redoar on her second start. She has faced stem opposition from some hot Revoultes trained in the south and this low-key handcap could just be her matic Her Equitack must over six, so today's seven furiongs might just be the key to her. Pathina, in a good maiden at Lebessier on her debut, is now on a tougher surface after two over six last time but she had Hever foll Dancer eight lengths behind her in fourth and Pet Express (apprentice-indical well-beaten when last of eight. Patric is now 6to better off with Hever Goff Dancer, who were having his first run for five months and is still a chance despite the unfavourable terms based on his best furl form. Silent Wespon started if with Akdan O'Brian then moved yards and ran in a tongue strap at Dawn Royal. He now runs for Kevin McQuittle in a first-time word and is a danger. Lyclus Tonch, as soft-ground Hamilton winner for Mark Johnston, has her first run for Tony Newcomba. Nemovily beaten last time in a setting nursery at Wolvermandon Limin, today's seven furlongs on a more secriting auriace gives her every chance. Full Tracaability won early last assess for last Berry and, along with Pet Express (again apprentice-indian), linished in the ruck in Muster Foley's seller at Wolverhampton Last morth. FORM GUIDE

#### **Effervescence retains his sparkle**

Effervescence landed a hat- back for one more win yester- two days (11 and 13 January) for trick of wins at Lingfield within a week when getting up in the last stride yesterday. Richard Hannon's colt got on

the winning trail on Boxing

Day at the Surrey course. He fol-

day, when his apprentice rider, David Griffiths, urged the 4-5 favourite home by a whisker from Eager To Please, with Forgotten Times well back in third. Darryll Holland, who rode Misty Cay (5-2 favourite) and

lowed up on Monday and came the runner-up, was banned for Tawafek (8-1).

using his whip with undue frequency. Simon Dow started his new year off on the right note through a 30-1 double with LINGFIELD

1.20: 1. MRSTY CAY (A Daly) 5-2 (av 2. Serenade 9-1; 3. Lily Jaques 5-1. 9 ran. 2, 2. IS Dow, Epsom). Rote: £3.20: £1.30, £2.50. £2.10. DF: £15.90. CSF: £21.29. Tho: £26.20, The placings remained unahered after a stawards' inquiry. 1.50: 1 TAWAFEK (R Perham) 8-1; 2

Nakhai 5-1: 3. Hazel 12-1. 11 ran, 11-8 fav Randra (4th), 1 ½, 1 ½, (S Dow, Epsom), Tote: £8.50; £1.60, £2.10, £1.60, DF, £27.20, CSF; £43.96, Tno: £26.20,

RACING RESULTS

220: 1. QUET ARCH (Dane O'Neill 3-1: 2. Awesome Power 12-1; 3. Ben Gam 11-4 fax 8 ran. 1,4, //. (W Mur. Lamboum). lote: £4.10: £1.10. £2.40. £2.30. DP. £20.20. CSP. £38.02. 2.50: 1. ULTRA BEET U Westverl 4-1: 2. Share T

Z. Sharp imp 7-2; 3. Captain Carat 10-3 fa. 9 ran. 19, 1, (P Haslam, Moddeham). Tota: £4.40; £1.10. £1.40, £1.50. DF: £6.70. CSF: £17,75. Incast: £47,34. Tito:

£7.70, 3.20: 1. EFFERVESCENCE (D Griffiths) 4-5 fav; 2. Eager To Please 11-2; 3. For-

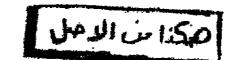
gotten Times 16-1, 5 ren. Sh hd, 6. (R Harmon, East Everleigh). Tota: £1.80; £1.10, £2.00. DF. £3.10. CSF. £5.56. 3.50: 1. YET AGAIN (0 Holand) 1-2 faz. 2. Premier League 16-1: 3. Pair of Jackle. 14-1. 13 ran. 5, 2½ (Mass Gay Kelleway, Whitcombel, Totas £1.70; £1.10, £3.80, £4.80. DF: £13.90. CSP: £13.57. Tacast £84.04. Trox £67.70, NR: Fabulous Mito-

kpot: £1,775,00. Place 6: £18.98, Place 5: £12.01

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ice hoci Rugby 1



# Criminal element infiltrates US sports culture

Michael Irvin, one of the most New Year's Eve they confiscarcharismatic and talented players in American football, enters the new year contemplating the prospect of spending the next 20 years of his life in jail. The Dallas Cowboys wide re--ceiver and Erik Williams, one of the team's best offensive linesman, have both been accused of rape.

A woman told police that on Sunday night, as Cowboy fans celebrated the team's weekend victory in the NFL play-offs against the Minnesota Vikings. Williams and another unidentified man raped her while Irvin held a gun to her head.

The Dallas police have not pressed any charges yet but af-ter searching Williams' home on Last year he was found guilty of drug possession and punished

ed a gun and a homemade videotape depicting two men having sex with a woman. A police spokesman said that the woman who made the complaint had been taken to hospital shortly after she went to the police with bruises and abrasions on her body.

Irvin, the glamour boy of the Super Bowl champions, insists forward to seeing how you guys go rewrite, reprint, rerun all these things about what hap-pened Sunday night when you find out that I wasn't even at Erik's house," he said.

But he has does have a record.

John Carlin in Washington says the two Cowboys accused of rape are symptomatic of American football's dark side

with a fine, 800 hours of community service and four years' probation. The judge who passed down the sentence warned him that if he violated the terms of his probation he would send him to jail for 20 years.

Williams, a fearsome giant of that he is innocent. "I'm looking a man judged by many to be at least as valuable to the Cowboys' offensive game as touchdown king Irvin, was charged by the police with rape two years ago. The charges were dropped after the 17-year-old girl in question set-

It is tempting to conclude that you do not have to be depraved to play American football, but of America's top college teams. it helps. Consider just some of the events of December.

The police reported on New Year's Eve that they were investigating a woman's complaint that she had been sexually assaulted by a player of the Philadelphia Eagles, defeated in the play-offs by the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, a University of Southern California player was charged with rape; four players on the Grambling State University football team in Georgia were accused of raping a 15-year old girl in a campus dormitory;

two players at Virginia Tech, one

were each charged on one count of rape and one of attempted sodomy. During the last year, 19 Virginia Tech players have been arrested for crimes ranging from rape to malicious wounding and assault and battery.

And then, of course, there's the case of arguably the greatest player of modern times, OJ Simpson.

There is clearly a rottenness in the state of American football. Many players appear unable to restrain the testosterone rage required on the field from spilling

The Cowboys appear particular-ly prone to scandal, with their head coach, Barry Switzer, hardly enhancing their image with his response to this week's events.

"Both of them will play," he said. Many American footballers, of course, are model citizens, some of them Dallas Cowboys. Take Bill Bates, a monstrously large linebacker with 14 years' experience in the NFL who is widely regarded in the game as decent and courteous in the Bobby Charlton mould. But the controversy generated by some of his more unseemly teammates is clearly getting to Bates. In training on Wednesday, preparing for this weekend's play-off against the Carolina Panthers, he was wearing a

baseball cap bearing the pointed message "Shut Up and Play" Expanding on his feelings to reporters, Bates said: "For a guy who his whole life wanted to play

for the Dallas Cuwboys, you know, at times it really makes you sick to your stomach." Troy Aikman, the no less gentlemanly Cowboys quarterback, struggled at a press conference to retain his diplomatic composure. Asked whether reports were true that he was considering retirement from the game. Aikman replied cagily: 1 still love competing but there's some oth-

from my enjoyment of the game." Clearly the Cowboys have been traumatised by events off the field. Playing big games

er things that have taken away



sport

these days appears to have become an exercise in therapy as much as anything else, a balm of

forgetfulness and merciful relief. I think we all enjoy getting out there on Sundays," Aikman said, "and putting everything be-

# Welsh put their faith in Quinnell

Rugby Union

Kevin Bowring and his fellow Welsh selectors vesterday accepted one of the key principles of professional rugby - that the way to a good forward's heart is through his pocket - and recalled Scott Quinnell to the national side for tomorrow week's friendly with the United States at Cardiff Arms Park. Quinnell will play at

No 8, with Steve Williams mov-

ing to blind-side flanker to cover for the injured Dale McIntosh. In another change to the team beaten 37-20 by the world champions, South Africa, last month, Wales have chosen Gareth Thomas at left wing in place of Dafydd James. Thomas scored an exciting breakaway try against Australia four weeks ago, but missed the date with the Spring-

boks after suffering mouth damage in a Bridgend club match. There is no place for Jonathan Davies, who loses out to the bewilderingly gifted but dangerously erratic Arwel Thomas at outside-half, while Gibbs, two more midfield players welcomed back into the union fold after spells in rugby league, hold their places in the centre. Bowring, the national coach, believes their partnership to be one of the most positive

developments of the season. - Quinnell's return adds serious ballast to his current account as well as to the Welsh back-row. The 24-year-old Richmond player took umbrage at what he perceived to be blatant financial discrimination when the Welsh put home-based internationals on a £30,000 retainer compared with the £10,000 on offer to those earning a crust with English clubs. He duly declared himself -unavailable for his country's

pre-Christmas Test programme. The dispute was solved by the intervention of Geoff Cart--,wright, a husinessman from

Gwent, who coughed up £10,000 in sponsorship money. With Quinnell professing his determination to "help my country reestablish itself as a major international force", Bowring can look forward to developing a loose unit of real quality for the first time since taking over the reins 18 months ago.

Gwyn Jones, the Cardiff open-side flanker who made such an impact in last season's Five Nations' Championship, is close to reclaiming his Test place after shoulder trouble - he sits on the bench next week - and Williams' versatility opens up a

number of options at blind side. Talking of blind-side flankers, South Africa's World Cup-winning captain, François Pienaar, may need to exercise even more patience before making his debut for Saracens. Denied a run against Orrell last weekend by the weather, Pienaar's scheduled appearance against Bath on Saturday is also in the balance. Bath were experimenting with an industrial heater at the Recreation Ground yesterday but were doubtful that they would be face in time to save the match.

Bath sources were also pessimistic about their chances of persuading Brian Ashton, their respected coach, to stay at the Rec. Frustrated at many aspects of the club's decision-making and dissatisfied with his own position in the chain of command, Ashton has been on extended leave since before Christmas. Tony Swift, the former international wing who chairs the club's management board, was expected to present new proposals to Ashton last

WHLES SULDAY USA Engles, Carcill' Arms Park, Jenuary 11; N Jenides (Pompordol; I Evans-Ularesti), A Battennan (Rohmond), S Tennes (Stanseau, O Thomas (Bridgird), A Thomas (Stanseau, R Rosselley (Englis), Chander Swarseau, J Hamphrey (Borld), Cardin, G Lieveslyn Garlen, and Roweley (Portypacid), S Williams (Hestin, Chand), Replacements: J Thomas (Eaglis), John (Portypacid), S Johnsell (Richmond), Replacements: J Thomas (Eaglis), Palon (Portypacid), S Johnsel (Eaglis), Replacements: J Thomas (Eaglis), Replacements: J Thomas

# Hands up for Priestley, the check-out king at the centre of attention



Dennis Priestley raises his arm in triumph after beating Ritchie Gardner 3-1 in his closing group match of the World Darts Championship at Purfleet, Essex, yesterday. But the 46-year-old Yorkshireman was rarely at

his best, despite producing the highest check-out possible of 170 in the opening set to share a £1,000 prize with Steve Raw who had performed this feat earlier in the week. More impressive was the defending

champion, Phil Taylor, who also progressed to the quarter-finals yesterday. Taylor, 36, from Stoke, beat Gerald Verrier in three straight sets in his final group match. He lost only one leg, had three 180s and check-

the international against Italy in

Dublin will survive. Light snow

has been cleared and a protec-

tive covering laid on the pitch.

The Italian squad arrived in

Dublin vesterday morning fol-

lowed by Ireland's squad re-

turning after four days of warm

weather training in the Algarve.

In rugby league, Oldham's plan to play their final, com-

memorative match at the soon

to be demolished Watershed-

dings ground against Swinton on

Sunday has had to be put off.

straight day without action on turf today following three fur-

ther abandonments. No jump

racing has taken place in Britain

since the meeting at Mussel-

burgh last Friday. Today's only meeting will be on the all-

weather track at Southwell. A

total of 49 jumps meetings have

now been lost during this sea-

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son, 39 since Christmas.

Racing faces a seventh

outs of 136 and 125 on his way to victory. Taylor beat Priestley 6-4 in the final last year and is attempting to win the title for the third successive year

Photograph: Robert Hallam

#### ter how many games are postponed.

The Football Association will go ahead with the FA Cup fourthnight in an effort to stave off the round draw on Sunday no matcoach's resignation.

Eight pitch inspections have already been scheduled for today, two of them involving Premiership clubs, Coventry City and Leicester City.

Birmingham are particularly anxious to get the go-ahead to play Stevenage, as their last three matches have all fallen victim to the weather. Their manager, Trevor Francis, said: "The majority of the pitch is playable and there has been a big improvement."

The rugby union programme has also been hit with the postponement of Courage League matches at Bedford, Coventry and London Welsh. In Wales, second-placed Pontypridd's First Division home game with Newport is also off. The US Eagles' tour match BIG FREEZE FACT FILE Footba**l** Today's pitch inspections (with

times) for tomorrow's games FA CUP THERD ROUND Chesterfield v Bristol City (9am) Coventry v Woking (3pm) Crystal Palace v Leeds (1:1am) Gillingham v Derby (11am)

Leicester v Southend (Noon) Luton v Bolton (10am) Reading v Southampton (20m) Watford v Oxford United (11am) NATIONWIDE THIRD DIVISION Bighton v Exeter (10.30am) * Other matches scheduled for tomorrow a also Bledy to be subject to plach inspection

against the Welsh champions, Neath, tomorrow has been switched to Cardiff Arms Park. But the match is by no means certain to go ahead, despite an undersoil heating system which has been working overtime.

The £250,000-worth of technology could not save Wednes-day's match between Emerging Rugby Union Tomorrow's postponements so far **COURGE CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP** 

National League Two: Coventry v Rugby; Bedford v Blackheath. League Three: London Welsh WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First

Division: Pontypridd v Newport. Change of venue TOUR MATCH: Neath v US Eagles (now at Cardiff Arms Park).

Rugby League Sunday's postponement COMMEMORATIVE MATCH: Oldham v Swinton.

Wales and the Eagles. It was postponed two hours before kick-off. "Hopefully, we will get this ame to go ahead," said a Welsh

Rugby Union spokesman, Peter Owens. "On Wednesday the air temperature was so cold that certain areas were still rock hard. The heating had worked, though, because the ground un-

GOLD COAST WOMEN'S CLASSIC (Hope Island, Aus) Second round: M I, Sena (Sp) bt A Elwood (Aus) B-3 6-4; A-G Sator (Ph tr.) Rendon (Gen 6-4 6-4; S Appaintons (Bel) bt N Dadby (Pr) 5-7 7-5

#### No job for Lydon yet Weather extends its kingdom of chaos Rugby League else - with the job," he said. demeath the surface was OK. Ireland are confident that

The Rughy League has dampened speculation that Joe Lydon is about to take over as the man in charge of the game at vouth level.

Lydon left his job as football manager at Wigan this week when his contract was not renewed. He has since been widely tipped to replace John Kear. who has resigned as Academy and coaching executive at the League, to join Sheffield.

However, the League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, repeated that there will be no appointment until the amateur game's governing body, Barla, responds to proposals for the unification of the amateur and professional wings of the game. "Until we have a clearer indication of their views, especially on the establishment of a youth commission, it would be unfair

SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct

Wigan, who do not appear to have tried very hard to keep Lydon on board, are now without a team manager, as well as a chief executive. Leeds, on the other hand, will have one man doubling up.

> his intention to be a "hands-on" boss by taking on the football manager's responsibilities after Hugh McGahan's departure. Hetherington will take charge of transfers and contracts, while

Their chief executive, Gary Het-

herington, has further signalled

the head coach. Dean Bell, will also assume control of the club's Alliance team. Wigan and St Helens are at

odds over a new date for the second leg of their Winter Challenge, which was postponed on New Year's Day. Wigan want to play the match

on 19 January. Saints already have a friendly arranged that day and favour 12 January. The League has been asked to adto link Joe Lydon - or anyone judicate.

**Burgess dies aged 73** 

coach and former Rugby Football Union president, has died, aged 73. Burgess was coach of the national team for just one season but had an enormous influence within rugby union. "His first and second rugby

loves were the red roses of England and Lancashire," John Richardson, the president of the

RFU, said yesterday. "Dedicated, emotional, a loyal friend and a fierce defender

AMMERICAN FOOLGAMES: Rose COLLEGE POOTBALL BOWN, CAMES: Rose Bowe One Safe 20 Archal Step 17. Cotton Bowl: Brightain Young University 19 Karsas State 15. Crimus Bowl: Tennessed 48 Northwestern 28. Gatter Bowl: Kerte Cardina 20 West Vagna 13. Outback Bowl: Authority and 17 Michigan 14. Flessing Bowl: Park Safe 38 Tesas 15.

Tony Ward attacked the British Athlet-

c Federation last night after being

"dumped" as the voice of the sport. His

full-time position as public relations of-ficerwas ended by the federation's ex-ecutive charman, Peter Radford, "I am

appalled by the way this has been han-cled, with just 24 hours notice, Ward, who is 65, said.

Steve Collins will have the rare task of facing overseas opposition in the skith defence of his World Boxing Organisa-

ton super-middleweight title next month.
The 32-year-old Dubliner will face
Frenchman Frederic Seither at the

12,000-capacity London Arena on 8 February, All of Collins' six WBO cham-

pionship fights have been against

American Football

Athletics

Boxing

Breish opponents.

John Burgess, a former England of rugby union, he will be sad-

Burgess was England coach for the 1974-75 season, during which time their only Five Nations win was a 7-6 effort against Scotland at Twickenham in the last game of the season. His greatest coaching triumph was masterminding North-West Counties' win over the All Blacks in 1972 - the first time an England provincial team had defeated New Zealand.

> SPORTING DIGEST Duncan Holland, the centre Chris Simmonds from Cardiff Harlequins and Stourbridge hooker, Rob Merritt.

Snooker LIMERPOOL VICTORIA CHARITY CHALLENGE (Biomingham): Plant round: N Bond (Engl ht A Robdoux (Carl) 5-2; A McMarus (Sco) bt D Mogan (Mai) 5-1. Tennis

Stourbridge hooker, Rob Merritt.
WALES FIVE HATOMS SQUAD: Backs: W
Proctor (Linebl.) I Thomas Cardin). Black: Swansen. I Evens (Linebl.) S Hill (Cardin). A
Bathman (Richmon). I Davies (Cardin). S Gibbs
(Swansen). N Davies (Linebl.), G Thomas (Shot).
Grand, D James (Bridgend). N Jackies (Ponportid). A Thomas (Swansen). J Davies (Cardin).
R Handay (Cardin). P John (Pontyrrdd). A Moore
(Richmond). Forwards: C Loader (Swansen). A
Levis (Cardin). S John (Linebl.). I Hampineys
(Cardin). G Johnston (Swanse). S Westerns (Neoth).
D Young (Eardin). J Davies (Neoth). I Muston
(Cardin). G Linebly (Hysteques). C Quinnell
(Richmond). M Rovidy (Pontyprado). B Jones
(Cardin). A Bouldy (Pontyprado). B Jones
(Cardin). A Golden (Linebl.). Caravis (Swansen). (Jonardi, A yance (Lenem), C Charvis (Swarséa), 6 Jones (Cartiff), N Thomas (Buth), S Quinnett (Richmond), S Williams (Nestri).

London Insh's decision to postpone tomorrow's Courage League match be-cause they have four players in the Ireland squad preparing to take on Italy is being contested by the solicitors of their opponents, Orrell. Their protest is likely to fail due to a new RFU regula-tion that allows a club with three or more

FOOTBALL RESULTS

TOP FIVE P W D L F A Pts
Rengers 20 16 2 2 53 18 60
Celtic 18 11 3 4 40 21 36
Dundee Utd 21 8 6 7 36 19 30

players in any Test team to call off a

AMESTRALIAN HARDOURT CHAMPRONSHIPS (Adeleide) Second round: J Bjordman (Swe) to J Sask (US) 6-4-5 K Nucse (Stock) to M Wood-ords (Aus 6-3 6-4; 1 Brango (US) in David Photol (Ger) 6-2-6-4; 5 Draper (Aus) to 8 Uhrach (Cr. Rej) 7-6-1-6-6-3. Depoiles quarte-dinate M Brad (GB) and 6 Muller (SA) to A O'Bren (US) 18 Uhrach (J Sask 1 J Sask 1

FIXTURES Football Subject to pitch inspections

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEASUE OF IRE-LAND Premier Divisions Durdalky Bohamans (7.45): Sharwook Rovers y Firm Harps (7.45). JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Pres

THERD ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL: Zimbab-we v England (7.30em) (at Hersre Sports Cub).

Other sports

6-4. "REW ZEALAND WOMEN'S CLASSIC (Auckland) Quantor-finale: M Manusia (Aur) bt A Huber (Ceri 6-4. 2-6. 6-2. 1 Messeer (Aur) bt A Dechaume-Bellers (Fr) 6-4.7-6; T fansaugen (Thai) bt S Cace (US) 3-8.6-4. 6-4; E Wagner (Cer) bt R Hiraki (Lapan) 6-3.0-6.6-4.

(Japen) 6-3 0-6 6-4.

KDPMAN CUP (Perth) Group A (Yamma): Cruetia bt Prance 3-0 (Crue names Inst): I Majoh bt 
M Pience 6-3 6-4: G Nemissen: bt G Forget (torfert): Nemissensami Majoh bt Forget and Pience 
forfet). United Statishs bt Asstrails 2-1 (US advance to Ringh. (US names Inst): C Rubin bt N. 
Braditise 7-5 6-0: J Girnetstob bt M Philippousst 7-6 4-6 7-6; Ganetstob and Rubin lost to Philippousst 7-6 4-7-6; Ganetstob and Rubin lost to Philippousst 7-6 4-7-6; Ganetstob and Rubin lost to Philippousst 7-6 4-7-6; Ganetstob and Rubin lost to Philippousth Germany 3-0 I Sphiles bt P Begerow 6-1 6-3; A Vorries bt Marbacher 2-6 7-6 8-2; Voinse 
and Spries bt Marbacher 2-6 7-6 8-2; Voinse 
and Spries bt Marbacher and Begerow 6-1 6-1.

The hours it took to sell the last 10,000 tickets for England's World Cup qualifying match against Italy at Wernbley. The clamour for the tickets, which went on sale yes-

terday at 9am, ensured a

76,000 sell-out for the game

on 12 February.

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Cricket Second Test South Africa v india 

To bat: S M Pollock, †D J Richardson, L Klusen er, A A Donald, P Adems, P. Alberts, P. Advanta, P. Adems, P. Alberts, P. Albe ly 9-1-24-0. #RDM: w V Remen, †N R Mongle, R S Drawd, *S R Tenduller , 8 Gangaly, M Azharuddin, V V La-man, A Kumble, J Shneth, V Prassd, D Ganesh.

RD BAID WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Purfeet)
Group C: N Deley Engl it D Smith (Engl 3-2 Group
It: P Toyer (Engl to G Venez (IS) 3-0. Group it:
D Presidey (Engl to R Gardner (Engl 3-1. Football Jimmy Neighbour, the former Totten-

hem winger, has been appointed man-ager of the Icis League club St Albans City.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Flature changes:
Two 4 Febr Liverpool v Ledds (from 5 Mar).

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Fixture
changes: Tue 7 Jan: Chester v Rechale (from
26 Decl. Tues 14 Jan: Abarshel v Duncaster (from
28 Decl.) Wed 12 Febr: Swindon v Garnesy (from
25 Decl.)
WEDNESDAY'S LATE FOOTBALL RESULT: FA Carling Premiership: Manchesser United 0 Asion Vil-

**Eng Premiers** la () (55,133). ice hockey

Rugby Union CARDIFF (v Brive, European Cap semi-final, Brive, Sunday): J Thomas, S Hill, M Hall, L Brive, Sunday): J Thomas, S Hill, M Hall, L Brive, N Walter, J Daves, R Howley, A Lewis, J Humphreys, L Mustoe, J Waledonf, D Jones, H Teylor Locath, E Luis, Gwyn Jones, Replacements: J Hewley, L, Janes, P Young, P Booth, K Stawart, J Ringer, Gareth Jones.

Second Division Nottingham have com-pleted a trio of signings with the trans-fers of the Leicester Tigers forward

**Bell's Scottish League** Premier Division Andersen 83, 89 50,019

The state of the s

DARTS: WDC World Championship (Purfeet ICE SKATING: British Short-Track Speed-Skatng Championships (Guildford). SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria Charly Challenge

#### **Barnes storm**

Anfield awaits the man who broke United, page 25

# sport

In Monday's Independent The pain of '96: Exclusive interview with Pete Sampras

# Lloyd insists second leg of tour starts today

#### Cricket

MARK BALDWIN reports from Harare

England's players have been told they froze "like rabbits in the headlights" by their coach, David Lloyd, who has used team meetings following yesterday's five-run defeat against Zimbabwe to hammer home the message that he expects a vast improvement in today's final one-day international here.

Lloyd is still angry about his tour starts tomorrow, not in side's display on New Year's New Zealand next week. We bottled out. It was a freeze that the captain was better suit-Day. "Tomorrow is not like an end-of-season knockabout, with nothing at stake," Lloyd said yesterday about a game which is now technically academic. with Zimbabwe 2-0 up in the three-match series. "I'm looking for the right reaction from our players and they should be shooting right out of the traps for this game. As far as I am concerned, and the players

know this, the second leg of our

These are professional England players and they have to show they can perform. I don't think, if you look at these two sides, that you can say that Zimbabwe are a better team than England," Lloyd added. We had the upper hand in both Test matches, but we have played diabolically in the two one-day internationals.

"Yesterday we got ourselves into position several times to

sustained influence on the

game, with Paul Gascoigne

showing up only in flashes while

Celtic's forwards failed to break

faced on a couple of occasions,

throw himself to the ground in

a challenge with Alan McLaren

for which the Rangers man

was cautioned, and there was a yellow card for Alan Stubbs of

Celtic for a foul on Goram

shortly before the interval. The

only other moment of note was

an Ian Ferguson shot which

Ferguson caught the eye with

his aggressive tackling and ac-

curate passing, but for a while

there a lack of urgency about

a curling ball aimed at the head

of Pierre van Hooijdonk, who

had come on in the 52nd

minute for Donnelly, and it took

a magnificent save by Goram to

push the striker's header round the post. Cadete saw a close-

range header in the 65th minute

saved by Goram. Then Gascoigne, who had been doubtful

before the start, was replaced by

Charlie Miller, and within sec-

onds Celtic had equalised.

the Rangers side as a whole. Di Canio, on the left, sent in

whistled past the post.

The simmering tension sur-

free of their shackles.

situation, like rabbits in the

England have named the same team for today's match, which looked to be in some doubt early yesterday when heavy thunderstorms hit Harare. By late afternoon, however, the rain had passed, but any more rain overnight could cause problems.

Lloyd said there had been no

ed to the No 5 position for this

match. "He's not in the best of form and his feet are not going in the right place at the mo-ment," Lloyd admitted. "but I've every confidence that he will come through it. With the form that he's in, and with the conditions here of slow pitches and slow outfields. I think that there is more advantage in him batting at No 5. We've also been

der in the first 15 overs." Lloyd also expanded on two particular aspects of England's display on Wednesday which displeased him: the bowling of 10 wides and three no-balls and then the failure of the batsmen to take charge of the run chase. "It didn't appear from the outside that we had a game plan but we do chat and plan ahead," Lloyd said. "But there were a thought of dropping Mike pleased with the way Nick couple of partnerships out there

ing the anchor role. When John Crawley and Nasser Hussain were together, for instance, we scored only 14 runs in eight overs

Lloyd said that he was determined to get on with his job of trying to produce a successful England team: "It's up to me to tackle it, that's the job I'm doing and that's the challenge. Of course I feel frustration and I can accept an off day. But we have too many.

fended the decision to give his players a day off yesterday in stead of calling a per se "After playing a die da ternational, played are in in fact they should be shall You have to have four rest that afterwards."

# Celtic stunned by Andersen's fairy-tale finish

#### Football

DAVID Mc KINNEY

Two late goals from Erik Bo Andersen will put Rangers into a familiar position going into the new year and, having secured three points against their closest rivals, their lead at the top of the Premier Division would seem to be unassailable.

The Ibrox club are 14 points ahead and, although Celtic have two games in hand, it would take a monumental collapse by the eight-times champions if they are to be bettered by the end of the season.

Andersen, who has not always been a favourite with the Rangers support or even management, endcared himself to the faithful with two killer goals in the final seven minutes to continue Rangers' recent run of successes against Celtic.

Most observers conceded that victory for Rangers would provide a virtually unassailable lead in their search for a ninth league title, and the home side was buoyed by the statistics of a run of eight games without defeat against their greatest rivals, with Celtic's last new year victory coming back in 1988.

Before the game Rangers neither side was able to exert a unveiled the future in the form of Sebastian Rozental, the Chilean striker, whose work permit was granted on Monday

Laudrup and Richard Gough, while Paul McStay and Phil O'Donnell continued their comeback from injury for Celtic, who also fielded David Hannah, their recent signing

Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, had hinted that his side would approach the game with an element of caution, having suffered on the break in recent games between the two sides, but his players had little time to put his ideas into practice. The recent pattern of these games continued, with Rangers

A free-kick 25 yards from

Paolo Di Canio free-kick which bounced back off the chest of Andy Goram, but thereafter

eras caught Milosevic in the act

of spitting at Beckham after a

nothing we can do as a club. We

will have to see what the ref de-

cides if he takes a look at the

video. There is no procedure to

wipe the booking from the

Ferguson said: "There is

#### Ferguson defends Beckham

late tackle.

Manchester United's manager referee, David Elleray, will Alex Ferguson has reacted with anger to David Beckham's booking after being spat at by Savo Milosevic during Wednesday's 0-0 draw against Aston Villa at Old Trafford.

Beckham lost his temper after the incident and both players were booked. He is now one more caution away from a ban. Ferguson claimed the midfielder's reaction was under-standable, and hoped the it could have been avoided."

No 3186. Friday 3 January

and who is expected to make his debut later this month. However, Rangers were without the influential Brian with Di Canio appearing to

from Dundee United.

goal gave Jorg Albertz the opportunity to demonstrate his shooting power. The German who has earned the nickname "Hammer" sent a ferocious drive beyond Stewart Kerr and into the bottom corner of his

Celtic's reply came with a

A move down the left saw the ball shuttled from Tom Boyd into the penalty area for Cadete, then Van Hooijdonk, and when the ball ran loose Di Canio stabbed home a low shot from six vards. study a video recording before filing his report. Television cam-

With seven minutes left Andersen swept Rangers into the lead with a low shot and he repeated the feat one minute from time to ensure a historic victory for Rangers.

Victory for Kangers,
Rangers (4.5-1): Goram; Petric, McLaren,
Björkund, Robertson; Cleland, Moore (Andessen, 78), Ferguson, Gascoppie (Miler, 65),
Albertz, McCost (Van Vossen, 76).
Cettlic (3-5-2): Nert: O'Neil, Stubbs (Thom.
82), Boyd: McNamara, Dornelly (Van Hoojdorik, 52), McStay, Hannah, O'Dornell;
Cadete, Di Carvo, Substitute not used: Wieghors.

Referee: J McCluskey (Stewarton).

Paolo Di Canio, scorer of Celtic's equaliser, tries to surge between two Rangers defenders at Ibrox last night

#### Ince to decide future at end of season

**NICK DUXBURY** 

Paul Ince is to decide whether to stay with Internazionale at the end of the season after already having rejected an ofter from Arsenal.

The England midfielder's contract at Inter, where he moved last year from Man-chester United, runs to 1999 and he has become a firm favourite with spectators at the San Siro.

"Arsenal came looking for me about a month ago but I said 'no'." Ince said yesterday.

He left open whether the current season would be his last with Inter, saying he would meet the club's chairman, Massimo Moratti, at the end of the season to "clarify my position and see what's best to do". "I'm not interested in mak-

Miguel Indurain, arguably

Spain's greatest sportsman, yes-

terday brought his cycling career

to an end in a hotel in his home

The only man to win the Tour

de France five years in a row.

on longer has the hunger to

compete at the top level. "I've

dedicated enough time to pro-

fessional cycling. Indurain said.

"After deliberating this decision

for a long time. I believe I have

made the best decision for my-self and my family."

ering retiring in 1996 after

some uninspired performances.

He finished a dismal 11th in the

Tour de France in July and

dropped out of the Tour of

The weight of years and the de-

mands of training were ulti-matchy too much for Turkey's

"Pocket Hercules" to bear, as

Naim Suleymanoglu, the com-pact weightlifter who captured

He became a national hero af-

ter winning his first Olympic

Indurain, whose career has

Spain because of a cold.

Indurain, 32, began consid-

town of Pamplona.

ing long-term plans now. I'll decision. Four matches is a bit nal have collected four red nal progress past Sunderland. Cide my future in four or five excessive, though, and frankly cards in the last eight matches. Birmingham City have of months' time," he said.

The Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, has indicated that he might be interested in buying Ince if he became available. Ince has been the subject of

racial abuse from opposing fans and has a poor disciplinary record in Italy. He was given a four-match ban on Monday for protesting with foul language and abusive gestures after he was sent off against Reggiana earlier this month - his third red

card of the season. Ince said he was surprised by the toughness of the suspension but not by the sending-off. "Stop writing that I have problems with Italian referees. The sending-off against Reggiana was right and any English referee would have taken the same

Cycling hails a champion

made him a wealthy man, is to

dedicate himself "to other pur-

suits". He did not specify what

have been able to crown his ca-

reer with a gold medal in the

men's time trial in the 1996

Olympic Games in Atlanta. He

also won the Tour of Italy twice.

lack the tremendous drive in the

Tour de France that in other

years had made him dominant.

The Tour de France director,

Jean-Marie LeBlanc, said: "I

think that psychologically, he is

a bit saturated. At his age, soon

to be 33, he has known all the

success, glory, fame and mate-

rial comfort and no longer has the hunger for cycling he did over the last few years."

In July. Indurain appeared to

Indurain said he was glad to

as Indurain retires.

they might be.

I expected less.

He also denied Italian media la reports his family are unhappy in Italy and wanted to return to England. "It's not true at all. Claire, Thomas and I are perfectly happy in Italy."

Arsenal have nine players either doubtful or already ruled out of the FA Cup third-round tie with Sunderland at Highbury tomorrow.

Their top scorer, Ian Wright, is suspended, while David Seaman David Platt, Lee Dixon and Remi Garde are all out injured. Dennis Bergkamp, Paul Merson. Tony Adams and Ray Parlour will require treatment before Wenger can piece together his team.

Wenger has opened a disciplinary inquest into why Arse-

where football is by far the most

popular sport commands such

admiration, respect and enthu-

siasm from Spaniards, espe-

cially in his native Navarre

region of northern Spain, of

which Pamplona is the capital.

as a champion cost against type

in the flashy, big-money world

of international sport has much

to do with his appeal.
"It is not easy to forget all that

Miguel has done, but in the end

we will remember Miguel the

person more than the cyclist,"

said Abraham Olano, the 1995

world road champion and wide-

ly seen as the most promising

Matchiess but modest

Indurain, page 25

successor to Indurain.

Indurain's laconic manner

#### First Division match on 14 Denow banned from the fourth round of the Cup should Arse-cember. Bargain New Year Breaks in London

John Hartson is the latest to fered Stoke City £1.5m for the and a two-match ban after be-

centre-back Carl Tiler.

Norwich City and Crystal

Palace have been charged by the

FA with misconduct and failure

to control their players follow-

ing the brawl which marred their

ing sent off in the last minute Everton are prepared to pay against Middlesbrough on £1m for Aston Villa's unsettled

land a two-match ban after be-

Wednesday for directing a tor-rent of foul-mouthed abuse at

Hartson, who has been or-

dered to a meeting with Wenger

before training this morning, is

the referee, Mike Reed.

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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

 Female leading poor sergeant a dance (8)
6 Match official investing in wager should be left alone! (6)

Look over most of brief

10 Round variety of the ro-tund breed of dog (5-5)11 Irascibility upset the cousins (10)
12 The old expression of con-

tentment - or a more re- 2 cent on? (4)

13 & 14 Chip-shop owner's reason for lack of interest? 3 (5,4.2.3) 16 & 19 Unhappy consequences of putting pillows in the dustbin? (4.2.3.5)

them (4)

23 Union worker with striking success? (5-5) 25 Intriguing event, showing

what defender shouldn't have done for goalie? (6,4) 26 Flag of Eire is trimmed (4) 27 Anger's not entirely fine in the pursuit of peace (6)

Castle bound to bring in men, initially to act as watch? (4.4) DOWN Prevent entry of rugby for-

ward dropped from the team? (4.3) Crazy woman embracing one believing in good an evil (9)

love from a woman (5)

Conservative song adopting a correct approach?

Soup, namely, encom-passed by redefinition of hroth" (7) With enough space for a

marsupial - gosh! (5) Ruffian vandalised entertainment area (7) 15 Work for optician could be

shaped to suit Carol (9) 17 Start song alfresco (4-3) 18 Moving? Mother put in ex-

pression of negation most-ly... (7) 20 ...before mother's receiving one bill for insurance? (7) 22 One making up the num-

three Olympic gold medals and the hearts of his adopted homebers is fine among the rest land, announced his retirement 24 Hold about 50? make that yesterday. "I am now 30. It is enough. I am announcing that I am putting an end to my active oper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Matrot Colour Prof. St sports life." Sulcymanoglu said.

gold in 1988 in Scoul. He has also won seven world championships - two before he defected from his native Bulgaria

and weightlifting also salutes a legend

In the last Olympic Games. the 4ft 11in Sulcymanoglu broke his own world record with a combined lift of 73812 pounds (52st 10% alb) in snatch

and clean-and-jerk. "Weightlifting has given me a lot, and it has given me a lot of joy," Suleymanoglu said. "My next target would have been the Sydney games. But I

cannot remain in active weightlifting for four more

Suleymanoglu said he wanted to continue working in weightlifting as technical director or manager. "But for now I only have one goal: to rest for a long while and catch up on all that I have missed out on in my

Suleymanoglu, born into an ethnic Turkish family, was universally honoured and admired for helped put Turkish sports

Allower Herry

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